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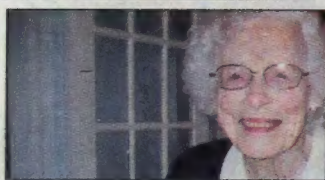
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LOOK INSIDE



An inspiration

Bette Herlihey was a woman to be admired and emulate.

See page 3

Lack of public meeting a mistake: library chair

by JENN WATT
Times Staff

Not consulting county residents about plans to close four branches by January 2009 was a mistake on the part of the library board, says board chair Cheryl Murdoch.

Murdoch, who is also deputy-reeve of Minden Hills and sits on county council, said in an interview that although the board had good intentions with the recommendation to county council to support only one branch per municipality, it would have been best to talk to residents first.

"Well, perhaps in hindsight we should have had a public meeting, I'm not saying that maybe we didn't get that part wrong," she said.

"The very intent of what we're trying to do is give the municipalities better library services and now what they're saying is we'd rather keep our small facilities that are not up to specs for the 21st Century."

The library board recommended to the county in June of this year that in order to enhance facilities – increase space, create more programming and increase hours – the county should support only one branch per municipality.

see RUMOURS page 8



On the button

Group of young curlers is putting the Haliburton Highlands on the map.

See page 13



Marvellous music

The spirit of the season fills St. Paul's Church at special Christmas service.

See page 24

In Quotes

"Well, perhaps in hindsight we should have had a public meeting, I'm not saying that maybe we didn't get that part wrong."

Library board chair
Cheryl Murdoch, page 7



Matt James/TIMES

Let the season begin

Micheal Kunkel, 12, of Minden, slides a rail with a not-so-successful landing. But after a short timeout he was back on his feet. Thanks to a P.D. day on Friday, the hill was packed with kids and for the first time since marketing director Chris Bishop can remember, the hill had all 12 runs open for the opening weekend. For more photos see page 14.

Millipede worms its way into campers' hearts

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times Staff

Touching creepy-crawly things are not high on everyone's list of enjoyable things to do.

The "ick-factor" was very much in evidence when 54 Little Brothers and Little Sisters spent a week at the Frost Centre Institute

this past summer.

That was until "Dr. Ziggy" took out a foot-long African millipede and asked them to touch it.

"After that you couldn't get them out of the muck," says Kyla Greenham, the Frost Centre's assistant general manager and director of its environmental program.

Jim DeFlorio, the executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, says "The kids are still talking about [their experiences at camp.] It was absolutely amazing."

"It opened up a whole new world for them."

see LITTLE page 2

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'Little' campers get turned onto nature at Frost Centre

from page 1

Propping open the door were Al and Wendy Aubry, who personally paid the costs of having the 54 "Littles" at the outdoor learning centre.

This past spring, the Aubrys and their organization, the Frost Centre Institute, won the right to re-open and manage the former Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre south of Dorset. While excited about the news, they didn't have much time to get the buildings, which had been closed since 2005, back into shape and fill the dormitories with campers. By opening day in June, only 10 per cent of the spots were filled.

That's when the Aubrys contacted DeFlorio and offered to provide a week of camp, at no cost to the kids.

Many of the Littles come from families that couldn't afford what is to many people a quintessentially Canadian experience. "They don't learn about the beautiful province we live in," DeFlorio said last Thursday when he presented a plaque of appreciation to the Aubrys and the Frost Centre's staff. "Their life is going to school, going home and being with friends."

It certainly doesn't usually involve learning about millipedes and digital cameras and how to enjoy the water silently (or at least without motors).



Martha Perkins/TIMES

The Frost Centre Institute has something new to hang beside the photo exhibit by its young campers: a plaque of appreciation from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Enjoying the moment are, from left, seated: arts co-ordinator Sarah Delroy, Wendy Aubry and assistant general manager Kyla Greenham. Standing: carpenter and arts technician Matt Mihlik, property manager Terry Stoughton, general manager Al Aubry and the executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, Jim DeFlorio.

The students did more than have fun, however. They helped University of Guelph scientists, including "Dr. Ziggy" conduct research that will help further our understanding about the ecological impact of global warming.

Greenham says that although the students didn't like mucking about in mud at first, they soon grew to appreciate how important all those creepy-crawlers are in our

world. "They have a more important role than we do as large species. To lose them we'd have catastrophic damage to the environment."

DeFlorio says that since these kids are the future "protectors of our environment," the opportunity to learn more about it has a lasting impact.

Al Aubry says, "There's no doubt that for some of them it was a life-changing event."

The Frost Centre Institute may be welcoming some of the kids back next summer. Every year the centre puts aside 10 per cent of its spaces for sponsored campers. A board has been set up to decide how those spaces will be allocated.

Meanwhile, the centre is preparing to accept résumés from future staff members. Last year, 180 people applied for 28 jobs. This year, with many more campers expected, the centre hopes to hire 70 people.

More information about programs and possibilities can be found at www.frostcentreinstitute.com.



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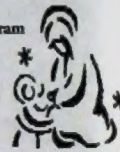
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A life of inspiration

As a teacher, mother, grandmother and community supporter, Bette Herlihey brought joy to others

by LAURA HENDRICK
Special to The Times

On a warm Wednesday morning this past August, a tiny figure made her way down the dark alley next to Pharmasave drugstore. With small but spirited steps, she hurried into the sunlight, just two blocks left in a two-kilometre walk.

Before our paths crossed, we glanced at each other, then gasped. It was 97-year-old Bette Herlihey, an unstoppable woman known as Nana to my partner, Neil Judson.

My heart was one of hundreds in Minden that warmed up each time I saw her.

"I was just praying someone would give me a lift home!" she exclaimed, taking hold of my hand.

I couldn't have come at a less helpful time. She had already walked from her Water Street home to Hyland Crest, Minden Hearing Service and finally to the drugstore.

But she was delighted by the short ride, and her goodbye kiss was a reminder of all the good things brushed aside on a busy day.

Last Saturday, December 8,



Whenever the author noted how handsome Bob Herlihey was as a groom, Bette would say, "Imagine having him as one of your students."

2007, Bette's awe-inspiring life came to an end. She suffered a heart attack in the two-storey home where she'd cared for her in-laws, raised her children and prepared for countless community functions.

Bette made her first mark on Haliburton County as a young teacher at the Consolidated School in Wilberforce in 1931. Here she met her husband Bob Herlihey, the only Grade 12 student who wouldn't ask her for a dance at the end-of-year formal.

An eight-by-10-inch photo of a young Bob Herlihey sat in the room where Neil and I once stayed.

Each time I noted how handsome he was, she replied, "Imagine having him as one of your students."

After years of courting, the two were married.

They spent their first summer building a cottage on Deer Lake near Highland Grove. As time went on, they added four more. The most popular of them all stood on an enormous island in the centre of the lake.

Renting the cottages gave the couple a source of summer income. The island later became a favourite place for their two kids, Robert and Heather.

This past summer, Bette made one last trip to the island. She boarded a 12-foot aluminum boat and hiked a bushy trail to the cottage steps.

Though weary at first, her blue eyes lit up over dinner. She told stories about the way school used to be taught, and threw her left hand in the air with mimed dagger as she broke into a soliloquy from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

The next morning, she walked out to the edge of the island. Standing atop a massive rock stretching down to the water's edge, she stared out onto the lake.

I wandered out after her to see if she needed a hand coming back.

"I forgot how beautiful it is," she said.

It was nearly half an hour before she turned back toward the cottage.

By that time, we were all peer-



Bette Herlihey was never without a smile. This past summer, the closest she came to complaining about the challenges of being 97 was to say, "Growing old is for the birds." She died last Saturday in the Water Street home where she had cared for her in-laws, raised her children and prepared for countless community functions. Her funeral is Saturday at Monk's Funeral Home.

ing out the window. Transfixed by the sight of her transfixed by the lake.

Bette was just as remarkable to watch in Minden, her home of about 60 years. Here, she was a loyal member of the Women's Institute and the United Church Women's group. She was blessed by a strong network of friends who helped her maintain the independence she cherished.

They took her out for groceries, drove her to church, picked up her mail when she was feeling weak and came to her side when she fell ill.

Sitting at her small kitchen

table with a plate of crisp oatmeal cookies, I heard countless stories about good friends such as Pat and Moe.

But most of all, she spoke of family.

She beamed with pride when describing strength of her children and the bright spirit she saw in all of her grandchildren.

One afternoon, she pulled out a stack of hand-painted canvases from her study. In recent years, she had painted landscape pieces to pass on to each of her grandchildren. She lamented not feeling coordinated enough to paint one for her grandson Ian's

upcoming wedding.

"Growing old is for the birds," she said with a smile.

It was the closest she ever came to a complaint.

As old as she was, it was easy to picture Bette walking down Water Street for years to come.

She was an inspiring woman. A great friend. And on some busy mornings, an angel in an alleyway.

Laura Hendrick is a former reporter with the Minden Times. She and Neil Judson are now reporters at the Squamish Chief in British Columbia.

Green candidate joins uranium mining protest

'The problem with the fast is if you're not Gandhi it can get risky if the forces you're opposing don't give a damn if you live or die,' says Doug Smith

by MATT JAMES
Times Staff

Green Party candidate Doug Smith recently completed a one-week fast in support of Donna Dillman, a Lanark grandmother who began a hunger strike outside the gates of the uranium protest site near Sharbot Lake on October 8.

The Community Coalition Against Mining Uranium (CCAMU) website says Dillman is calling for a moratorium on uranium mining in Eastern Ontario. It is asking people to show their support by contacting local politicians, media outlets, internet blogs and any organization that

might be able to help.

"The problem with the fast is if you're not Gandhi it can get risky if the forces you're opposing don't give a damn if you live or die," says Smith, who had only water and tea for a week.

Dillman has announced that if Premier Dalton McGuinty has not called a moratorium or formed an inquiry into uranium mining by 12 p.m. December 13, she would cut all nourishment and go to water only. To date she's already lost 29 lbs.

In a letter McGuinty urged Dillman not to endanger her health, which Smith said was merely good politics because it's the province's decision to allow uranium mining that's endangering people's health.

The difficult part, Smith says, is that he or anyone else supporting Donna would like to see her live another fight and not go down in this one. Her fight might be a little early to have a major impact.

"It's premature; there isn't any knowledge," Smith says of the lack of public education on the dangers of uranium mining.

In his last campaign for MPP, Smith says that he tried to get a riff going on uranium mining but that people looked at him as if he was from some other place. But

since that time, "It's amazing how the uranium interest consolidated on a global level and got this thing moving. Who knows what's going to happen in the long run, if they're actually going to put one of these things [a new mine] in. But there's a lot of capital, financial capital and fortunes to be made before they even put a whole in the ground."

Does Smith feel that the against-uranium-movement is getting anywhere?

"The fact that the Premier sent a personal letter to her [Dillman]... that's some small meager evidence that it's happening," says Smith. "But as far as the level of information that people have in general, I'm afraid it's still woefully inadequate. It's pathetic."

So when does Smith think that the uranium mining will be recognized as a serious issue by the government?

"Right now the government controls things; if they want to keep things the way they are, they will."

"The party in power will not change the fundamental organization of society," says Smith.

Governments have invested heavily in nuclear power, he says, and it would not be financial 'smart' to change overnight.

During the last provincial election campaign Smith said the public fear button was pressed only once by the leaders of the two major parties, and that occurred when the parties were talking about energy and atomic power. Both parties used the phrase "The lights will go out."

Two weeks ago Dillman secured a meeting with the Premier and, according to the Dillman camp, McGuinty stated that he could not end uranium mining because he was committed to maintaining the present level of 14,000 megawatts of electricity generated by nuclear power.

Dillman told the Premier that, according to the Canadian Nuclear Association (<http://cna.ca/english>), over 80 per cent of Canada's uranium is exported and Canada has stockpiles of uranium estimated to last for 40 years at current levels of use. She added that, in light of this information, there is no need for continued exploration of uranium.

The Premier committed to researching the issue and would get back to her.

While Smith feels that he didn't accomplish much with his fast, he said that he would be prepared to fast again if he could organize a relay, which involves a larger group.

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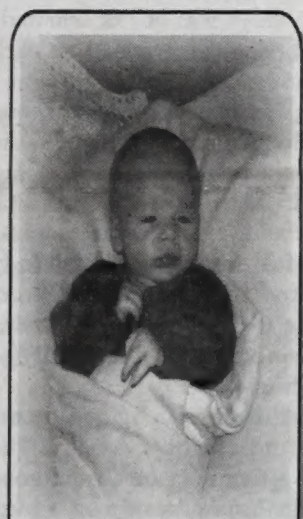
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Eight times more snow falls this November compared to '06

by PHIL GRAHAM
Times Staff

Last November we had a pleasant month and this November we had winter.

Last November we had 7 cm of snow and this November we had 57 cm so things do change!

Last November most of the precipitation was rain and this November mostly snow. The average temperature was much cooler this November.

Looks like a long winter!

Average High: 4.1°C, 39.3°F

Average Low: -4.5°C, 23.9°F

Average for the Month: -0.2°C, 31°F

Average for last November: 3.1°C, 37.5°F

Highest Temperature, November 14: 12.5°C, 54.6°F

Lowest Temperature, November 24: -17.5°C, 0°F

Rain: 37 mm, 1.4 in.

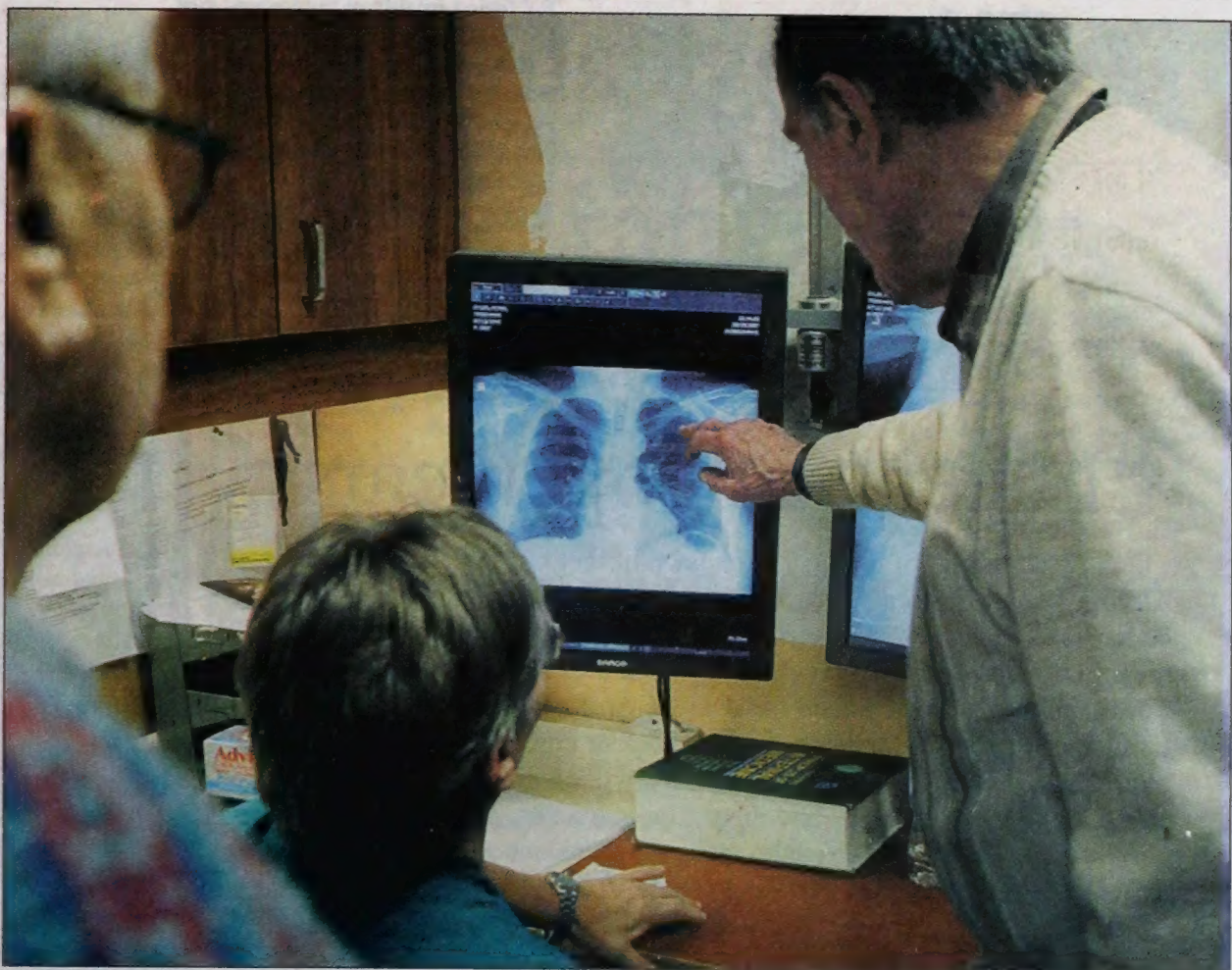
Snow: 57 cm, 22 in.

Total Precipitation: 94 mm, 3.7 in.

Total Precipitation for last November: 98.4 mm, 3.8 in.

Days mostly Sunny: 7

Days with Rain: 13



Jenn Watt/TIMES

X marks the spot for giving

Minden Hills councillor Peter Oyler put his cracked rib to good use at the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Open House on Wednesday. His chest x-rays were used to show the detail and convenience of the new picture archiving communication systems (PACS), used to view, store and transmit CAT scans and ultrasounds digitally. One of the most useful aspects of the PACS is that patients no longer need to transport film back and forth to specialists. Hospitals can now call up the images if they have corresponding technology, which Peterborough and Lindsay hospitals do. PACS cost \$1.1 million. In this photo, one observer points to where his heart would be on the X-ray displayed by technician Rudy Munz.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Listen with open ears

Finally, rumblings of public meetings on library closures have begun. After two years of library board meetings consistently aiming to close branches to enhance services in the county, someone in government has decided it's time to talk to residents.

Warden Murray Fearrey said the possibility of a public meeting will be brought up at county council today. That doesn't mean that there will be one, or that if there is one it will result in anything more than an info session with little interest in public input. But at the very least library users will be able to see the people who make the decisions and hear from their mouths why their libraries need to close.

This public meeting – if it does happen – should not be confused with the resident-organized meeting at the Frost Centre January 14. The latter came from frustrated citizens looking for a way to communicate. The former is a last-minute effort to fix a big mistake.

Cheryl Murdoch, deputy-reeve of Minden Hills, is the firmest supporter of closing branches in order to locate one super-library in each municipality. In retrospect, she said, the library board should have had a public meeting. The county public meeting, it can be assumed, will be held to make up for that, but it may be too late. Now that the library board and the county council have voted to close branches, how useful will a public meeting be unless county is really willing to listen to residents and follow their lead?

Talking to the library board members who made the decision to close branches, it's pretty obvious that none of them is interested in backtracking.

Perhaps county councillors will be more receptive. Bear in mind though, all county councillors have either been on the library board in the past or are currently on it, with the exception of Highlands East's Dave Burton. There were also no dissensions at the county level when this decision was made. It doesn't bode well for those who want a reversal of the decision.

All of this is speculative, of course, since at the time of this printing county hasn't even made the decision to go to the public with information or for feedback. It can only be hoped that whatever inspired the councillors to reconsider consulting the public will also push them to reconsider the decision to close the branches altogether.

Bravo!

Theatre for the Earth drew an amazing number of Minden residents on Saturday night at council chambers. Organized locally, written and performed by elementary school students, it was the epitome of a community event. The play told the story of a young girl taking on an evil developer who is dead-set on cutting down Haliburton's forests.

Whether the standing-room-only crowd came to support our forests, our playwrights, the arts or the students is hard to gauge. No matter what for, the number who chose to come out on a cold snowy night was truly heartening and a good sign for community projects. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Jenn Watt

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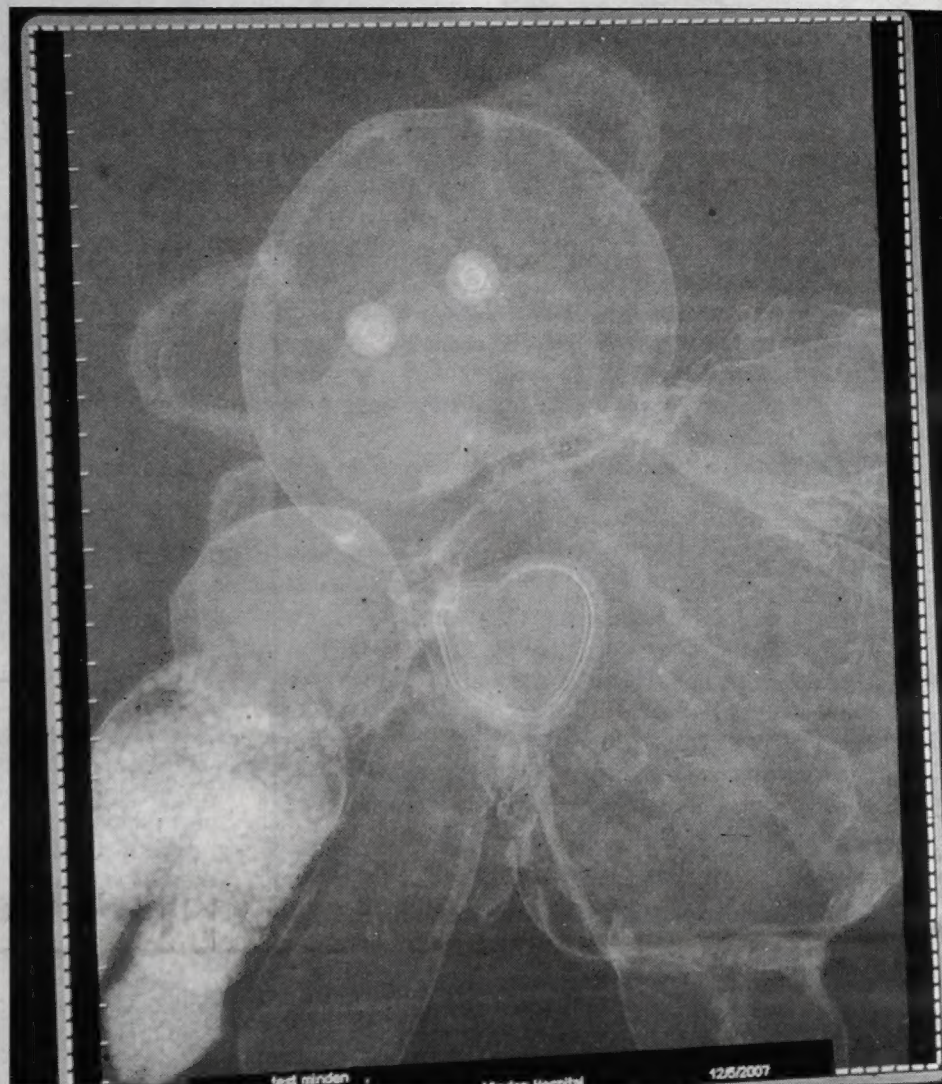
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IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

X-ray reveals bear's heart

Photo by Jenn Watt

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

Don't close another thing in Dorset

The following letter was first sent to Haliburton County CAO Jim Wilson.

Dear Mr Wilson,

It is lamentable that the county has the arrogance to deprive the public of a basic service - namely a small library - without consulting the people who, after all, pay for the services, salaries, wages and expenses of the elected representatives and their staff.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Tom Gardner should learn the meaning of words he uses. "To enhance" in the New Webster Dictionary reads: "to make greater (as in value or desirability), heighten, intensify, magnify". Closing the library in Dorset cannot be said, by any stretch of the imagination, to be an enhancement.

Dorset has lost its public school and now possibly its library. Perhaps Mr. Gardner has a mind to "enhance" Dorset still further by suggesting closing the

Dorset Recreation Centre... and then perhaps a few roads? Why not?

Dorset has been beset by closures - a without proper and due public input.

Closures of essential and vital community services is a reckless and ill-conceived act of "dumbing down" society. Taxes should be channelled to the benefit of the majority, not the elite and wealthy. Taxpayers who vote councillors into positions of responsibility are led to believe by doing so, that their essential interests and needs will be taken care of. An extra airport runway in Algonquin Highlands benefits only the elite and wealthy. It is not an essential need for the majority of taxpayers in Haliburton County!

Please understand that the decision to close the Dorset library will remove an essential and vital corner stone of the structure of our community.

Hugh Reynolds
Dorset

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

At home on the range

LAST WEEKEND, I had the good fortune to spend some time at the Burlington Rifle and Revolver Club. This trip was work-related trip in that we were introduced and familiarized with a new line up of firearms by a major manufacturer. Afterwards, we attended a dinner, the purpose of which was to raise funds for the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, a firearms and shooting sports advocacy group.

Venues like this are always interesting to me, because they remind me how safe and fun the shooting sports are. More importantly, they confirm what most people already know: that the gun problem is not born in places such as this.

In organized clubs, safety and respect for firearms and people is the prime directive. And, without fail or exception, club members do their utmost to keep it that way. Interestingly too, shooters were from all walks of life, ages, and ethnic origins, and some of the finest pistol shooters I saw last weekend were women.

Also, contrary to a popular misconception held by some non-shooters, target shooting is perhaps the least violent of all sports. It's competitive, yes, but there is no body contact or foul language; neither is there yelling at officials, trash talk, or disrespect. In fact, there's probably more confrontation during a friendly round of golf.

Right about now, those unfamiliar with the sport might be asking themselves what's so fun about shooting at a paper target or clay birds? Well, I think the first thing that grows on you is the sense of satisfaction that comes from shooting well. Marksmanship, after all, it requires excellent hand/eye coordination and no small amount of concentration to place a bullet in the X or to break a clay bird. To do so, consistently day-in and day-out is even more difficult.

And though shooters often gauge their progress by competition, in most cases they're competing against their personal bests and trying to improve their own skills. Many say it's a great way to step away from the stresses of everyday life – which, in a sense, also makes it a healthy activity.

Sadly, these are the people whose activities are most affected and curtailed by our current firearms laws too.

For the record, I'm not against firearms laws and regulations in principle. I think some aspects of our current laws, such as licensing and safe storage provisions, are good and useful ideas.

Much of our current slate of laws, however, has no impact on crime reduction. Worse still, they waste funds that could be better utilized elsewhere to address the root causes of violent crime. Also, as anyone with a modicum of common

sense has already figured out, gun laws do not affect criminals, since criminals by their very nature break laws.

That's enough about the politics of it all. The truth is recreational shooting is actually fascinating in its own right. More than that it's harmless, promotes gun safety, and is constantly reinforcing the responsible use of firearms. Oh, and it is a great social venue for like-minded people, in the very same way curling or softball is.

Personally, I don't think it would be a bad thing for most people to visit their local range at least once as guests. Then maybe there'd be a better universal understanding of what responsible firearms ownership means and why firearms owners seem opposed, threatened, or burdened by our laws as they stand.

If we as a nation understood that much, then maybe we could get serious about dealing with those who use firearms criminally or irresponsibly.

*I can be reached at
TheOutdoorLife@aol.com.*



OUTSIDE CHANCE

Steve Galea

A Christmas giving list

THERE ARE SENIORS in Haliburton County whose incomes leave them without enough money for food once they've paid for rent and light and heat.

Some of them have too much pride to go to the Minden Food Bank and so the Food Bank is helping Community Care Haliburton go to them with a monthly cheque for \$300.

The Food Bank's core mission has always been to help out hard-luck families in our part of the county. You can donate food, cash, or, at this time of year, toys, to help out the 274 families on its list. Call Barb Walford-Davis at 489-1715.

The Food Bank has its list and so does this column – a list of 21 Haliburton charities that could use a gift from you in this season of giving. Our lists includes names and phone numbers you can call to find out more about how you can help.

Most charities can issue a tax receipt; ask about that. Here comes the list, in no particular order.

Community Care needs help with providing Emergency Response Systems that let seniors get help at the push of a button so they can continue living independently in their own homes. A home unit costs \$350, the pendant the senior wears is \$65 and the annual cost of monitoring is \$325. Roxanne Casey, 457-2941.

There is more help for seniors and their care-givers from SIRCH Community Services and Consulting, which helps folks with life-threatening illnesses and friends and families dealing with

bereavement. Linda-May Powers, 457-1742.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services had paid off its \$5.7-million share of the cost of its new hospitals. Now it's raising \$2.5-million for new technology that uses computers and electronic networks to view, store and transmit diagnostic images. Dale Walker, 286-1580.

Or, you can help young families. For example, Food For Kids provides school breakfasts and healthy snacks. Rosie Kadwell, 457-1391.

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, formerly Family Services, is looking

for help to support families at Christmas and for its after-school recreation, summer camp and emergency support funds. Marg Cox, 457-5345.

The Ontario Early Years Centre provides parent-education programs and drop-in programs, including music circles and a toy-lending library. Julie Pearson, 286-1770.

At the John Howard Society Outreach Literacy Program, the focus is on adult literacy, but there is also tutoring in basic mathematics, computer training and job-search techniques available across the county. Sherry Hartell, 457-3430.

It's easy to be Green in Haliburton County, which has plenty of environmental groups looking for your support.

The newest of them is the Friends of

Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL), a successor to Friends of the Frost Centre. Its mission is to foster a greater understanding of our natural

world and how we can sustain it for the future. Barrie Martin, 754-2436.

Environment Haliburton (EH!) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Haliburton Highlands through advocacy, education and action. Eric Lilius, 754-9873.

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust works to preserve the county's natural heritage through property acquisitions, research and

education. Sheila Ziman, 754-2532.

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association also has preservation on its mind, both of the county's natural landscape and of the Haliburton Gold subspecies of Lake Trout. Marilyn Wooder, 457-9664.

The Trails & Tours Network's walking trails includes the Algonquin Highlands Ridge Trail, the Harrison Woods, Beech River and High Falls hiking trails and much more. Adopt a meter of trail for \$25; adopt three meters and put a friend's name on a plaque on the trail. Samantha Davies, 489-4049.

In Minden, Riverwalk plans to expand its walking trail along the Gull River and build a pedestrian bridge across the river. Laura Cunliffe, 286-1260.

Two Haliburton organizations raise funds for international projects.

Haliburton Highlands Grannies supports the Stephen Lewis Foundation's projects in Africa aimed at easing the pain of those afflicted with Aids. Mickey Bonham, 286-2198.

Help A Village Effort (HAVE) started here and now has chapters across Canada. It funds well-drilling in rural Third World villages, mostly in India. Its plans include 240 wells over the next three years. Ron Reid, 489-2431.

The YWCA Women's Centre provides an array of services, including safe space, for women suffering from abuse in their homes and lives in Haliburton County. Daisy Downs, 286-1942.

The Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum needs help with a major renovation. It houses historical artifacts, letters and photographs in the original Stanhope Township council chambers. Betty Moffatt, 489-3021.

R.D. Lawrence Place is finished, but the Minden Hills Cultural Centre is still raising a virtual roof on its web site. Ten dollars will pay for a piece of its roof, \$250 for one of its trusses. Dianne Graham, 286-3763.

You can buy books or magazine subscriptions or fund special projects for your branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Joel Levis, 457-2241.

Minden Hills' volunteer firemen are selling a cash calendar to raise funds. They will sell 3,000 calendars for \$20 each and dispense \$12,900 in prize, with draws for \$25 most days in 2008. Township office, 286-1260.



BACK OF BEYOND

Neil Campbell



Jan McDonald of Dorset has arranged a meeting in January for all county residents to express their views. Members of every council, as well as the library board, have also been invited.

Rumours of library closures only became real in 2007

from page 1

Minden Hills and Dysart et al have one library each, meaning that the cuts would fall in Algonquin Highlands, which has two branches, and Highlands East, which has four.

County council accepted the recommendation in August of this year.

After news of the cuts made it to residents in the two affected municipalities, many were upset that they had never been consulted during the process. In Dorset, a large group of people has begun organizing to keep both branches in Algonquin Highlands open. They even went as far as organizing their own public meeting, set for January 14, at the Frost Centre at 7 p.m.

The library board has up until this point held the position that if the public wanted to know about the closures, they should have been at the meetings.

In board minutes on May 9, 2007, one month before the official recommendation, it states: "As part of a discussion concerning the possible scheduling of public meetings [on library closures], it was noted that library board meetings are public and any members of townships councils (or others) are welcome to attend."

Tom Gardner, board member and deputy-reeve of Algonquin Highlands, agrees with this statement.

"All I can tell you is that this was the route that was taken. Certainly our meetings are open to the public. I would say that this has been in the newspaper for years, the possibility of closures; we've heard about it for years. There's always been some who have written letters to the editor for years. It's been out in the public eye for years," he said.

The crux of the problem, though, is that while there were rumours that branches may be closed, it was only in 2007 that the board moved ahead with the idea.

"Having public meetings would have possibly been a

way to go, but we had given our thoughts about it and we expected when it was taken to [county] council they would take some thought and decide what needed to be done with the library problem," said library board member Rozanne Hynard.

She did not recall any discussion at the board level about public meetings.

Murdoch thinks that the public should be looking to their reeves and deputy-reeves who sit on county council, where the decision was ultimately made, for accountability.

"The people who voted for it sit on county council. There's a deputy-reeve and there's a reeve from each of those areas who sat there and passed it unanimously at county council. Not a word was said there. That to me would be an indication; if they had concerns why did they not speak to it or speak against it or whatever?" Murdoch said.

The pressure for a public meeting on the subject has caught the ear of some at county.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, who is the outgoing warden of Haliburton County, said that a motion to call a public meeting will come to the county council meeting today.

"It's never been properly explained to people what the rationale [for the closures] was, I agree with that," Fearrey said.

Most councillors who sit on county council have been on the library board at one point, perhaps making their swift decision on the library rationalization more understandable.

In fact, most of the councillors were on the board at some point when closures were mentioned, dating back to before 2002.

"It has been talked about at county library level since 2002. Basically, it was on the agenda again and we

see FOCUS page 9

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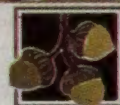
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Focus groups feared closures

from page 8

moved on it. It's always been there. Every county library committee has talked about it since 2002 or maybe before," Murdoch said.

It was in 2002 that the library board commissioned Hélène Golden from the Southern Ontario Library Service to do a needs assessment study of the eight branches. Her report has since been cited by both sides of the debate as a reason to, or not to, close branches.

The needs assessment report was presented on February 12, 2003. It details months of focus group work with various communities: Highland Grove, Minden, Dysart, Stanhope and with library staff.

In the report summary, it states: "There was much support for the multi-branch system model in Haliburton. Participants found their local branch to be most convenient, and felt that others in the county would feel the same way about their branches."

The summary also points out that concerns were over a lack of hours, books-based programming, lack of space and "unattractive" space.

In the focus groups, every one involving residents stated that people feared losing their branches, except at Stanhope, where there was no mention of branch closures at all.

"There was a fear that the smaller branches of the county system were under threat and might close," the report said of the Highland Grove focus group.

"All participants felt that the multi-branch system should be maintained. It was pointed out that libraries must be convenient, and therefore should be situated near the homes of users," one Dysart group said.

"Participants were emphatic that this [closures] was not acceptable, when what was needed was an improvement in facilities, collections, and services," the Minden group said.

Despite this, library board minutes show that the board members began talking about closing libraries immediately after the report was tabled.

"Ms. Helen [sic] Golden presented a draft version of

her report on the assessment study ... Issues briefly considered included potential closure of some branches to improve efficiency, effectiveness, community access and continued improvement to the collections as a whole," the minutes of March 19, 2003 state.

Throughout the year, branch closures continue to come up.

"When asked, Ms. Golden suggested that branches might be closed in Dorset, Stanhope, Gooderham and Cardiff in descending order," said the November 19, 2003 minutes.

One year later, the board did an about-face.

"He [Bill Howe] felt that it was critical that branches remain open," said the minutes of April 21, 2004. Howe was the chair of the board and deputy-reeve of Highlands East at the time.

Today, Howe still agrees with that statement.

"I'm not in favour of what they're doing," he said, noting that he's not in politics anymore so could not comment further.

In October of 2004, the Friends of the Library responded to the Golden Report, saying that, "If these facilities, including branches of our library, are closed because of [budget] pressures, the communities will be deprived of a rich resource ..."

After that letter there is very little mention of closing branches until February 11, 2006, one month after Cheryl Murdoch and Tom Gardner become chair and vice-chair of the committee.

"[Murdoch] felt talk of branch closures would be more acceptable if the public knew what they were being offered in its place. Warden [Murray] Fearrey noted that while the County was prepared to take action concerning branches and facilities, it had to know what was required," the minutes read.

From that point until today the library board minutes mention "rationalization" nearly every month.

Friends of the Library, an advocacy group, has also changed its position on closures.

Eleanor Malcomson, a former library board member and now chair of the Friends organization, said the execu-



Helene Golden's report doesn't call for closures but it does identify need for more books and open hours across county system.

tive unanimously agree with the county and library board.

"It's a very positive thing that they're doing. You have to make changes to do that [improve library services] and that's scary for most people, but I think what they're trying to achieve is a very positive thing," Malcomson said in an interview.

Reach For The Future



For the **tenth** year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees located in the front lobbies of the Health Care Facilities with tags sponsored by gifts from our generous supporters. Help us reach our **\$90,000 Holiday Goal** to invest in the technology for Diagnostic Imaging.

As of December 7th, 2007 we have raised **\$31,775** towards our goal.

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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairman for our **2007 "Reach for The Future"** campaign, Dr. Bob Heyes and Dr. Dave Fiddler.

If you would like to help us "Reach for The Future" this Holiday Season, your gift can be sent to **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Box 1413, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 or Box 30, Minden, ON K0M 2K0**, you can deposit your gift in the donation boxes at the Minden and Haliburton Facilities, or you can donate online at www.hhhs.on.ca/foundation.htm.



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Juniors win home opener

by MATT JAMES
Times staff

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior boys basketball team seemed to prefer to score baskets during even-quarters instead of odd-quarters for this season's first game at the Nest on Dec 5. Luckily for them the game ends on an even quarter.

Captain Luke Watson led the boys to a 34-29 victory against the Fenelon Falls Falcons, scoring 10 points and gobbling up seven defensive boards while Caleb Zilla managed six steals, and Chris Allison grabbed four defensive rebounds.

However, the first quarter was an odd number and not long after tip-off the Red Hawks found themselves down 6-0. In fact, it took a foul on Allison and a basket from the free throw line in order for the red and white to record a point. But good defence kept the first quarter deficit 1-8.

But the Red Hawks entered an even quarter with Watson looking like a recent Chris Bosh, swatting the ball away from a Falcons player who'd left the floor on his way to the basket.

Minutes later Graeme Lloyd post up from inside the key and scored a basket to bring the Red Hawks back 4-8. Lloyd followed that with another basket even after being fouled. He stepped to the line dropping two free throws for a three-point play, bringing the Red Hawks back to within one.

With 4:59 left in the half coach Roland Zilla called a 30-second timeout after his

boys began to scramble defensively. The timeout calmed the boys who regained the lead with solid defense and a good drive by Watson for a basket. At the end of the half, Haliburton led 15-8 with each team committing six fouls.

While the Red Hawks started the third with a smooth three-ball from Zilla, Haliburton disappeared both offensively and defensively and with a few selfish plays and bad passing the boys watched a 20-10 lead shrink to 24-20 by the end of the third quarter. But hey, it was an odd quarter, by this point it was expected.

The Falcons refused to give up, gaining the lead 24-25 early in the fourth quarter. However, an even quarter meant an inevitable comeback, and it started with Adam van Nood draining a field goal.

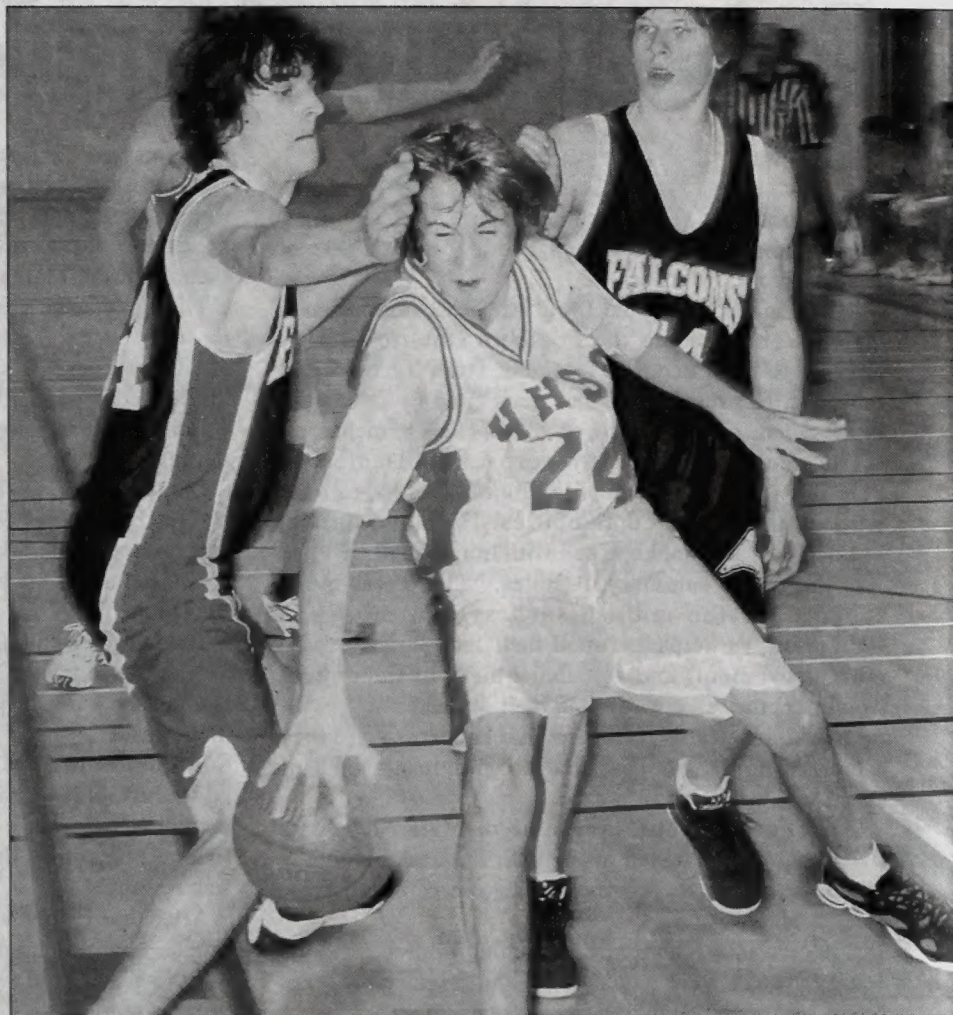
And after a couple of key buckets from J.J. Kerr and Jessie Walker, the boys and their captain regained control of the game and sealed the deal.

Post game coach Zilla commented on his team's first game of the season.

"It was pretty rough," started Zilla, "but it was the first time some of these boys have seen basketball at an organized level."

Zilla continued to point out that the team is a very defensive one and that they don't have, quite yet, an offensive prowess. But the coach wasn't shy to point out Watson and Kerr as the standouts during the afternoon tilt.

Be sure to join the juniors for their next home game December 18 against Lindsay.



Above:
Caleb Zilla tries to
penetrate the paint.



Left: Captain
Tyler Watson drives
towards the net.

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Zion United Church, (Carnarvon) - 9 a.m. Sunday Service
Maple Lake United Church, (Hwy 118) - 10 a.m. Sunday Service
Minden United Church - 11 a.m. Sunday Service

Sunday, Dec. 16 (Advent III - Joy)

Cantata Service at ZION 9:00 a.m. presented by the Zion United Church Choir.

Service at MAPLE LAKE 10:00 a.m. with Rev. John Patterson, followed by brunch pancakes

Cantata Service at MINDEN 11:00 a.m. presented by the Minden United Church Choir.

Sunday, Dec. 23 (Advent IV - Love)

Regular morning worship services at each church

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

3:00 p.m. Family Service at Zion United Church

7:00 p.m. Family Service at Minden United Church

9:00 p.m. Communion Service at Maple Lake United Church

Sunday, Dec. 30

11 a.m. Joint Service at Minden United Church

Sunday, January 6, 2008 (Epiphany)

Regular morning worship services at each church





J.L. Frybort of Haliburton drives the lane.

Senior boys test the waters in their first game

by MATT JAMES
Times staff

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School senior boys basketball team was in tough against a stronger, taller, and more skilled Fenelon Falls team when the Red Hawks dropped their home opener 24-56 at the Nest on Dec. 5.

However, the boys showed promise in the form of some good blocks and lay ups. The players just weren't able to match the accuracy of the visiting team. After the first quarter the boys trailed 2-13.

The presence of Zeke Diezel and

Mitchell Sobil was certainly felt on the court and French exchange student Francois Magnant showed poise and patience, rarely shooting and always passing to his teammates.

Midway through the second J.L. Frybort brought the boys within seven points after nailing a three-ball, but the Falcons kept sinking field goal after field goal, steadily building a lead. At the half, the red birds were down 11-26, with Haliburton committing seven fouls to the Falcons' five.

But the Red Hawks' spirit was never broken. The boys continued to put forth effort until the final buzzer.

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Carnarvon's Zeke Diezel tries to put one past a giant Falcons player.

Start your engines: trails now open

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is thrilled to announce that snowmobile trails are beginning to open across the Haliburton Highlands. The county has been blessed with an amazing early snow fall and things are starting to shape up for an early start to the 2007/2008 snowmobiling season. The long range forecast is looking really good with more snow and cold temperatures.

HCSA volunteers are hard at work getting everything ready. Over the next few weeks, they will continue to open more trails, but remind snowmobilers to please be patient and stay off trails until they are posted as open.

Check the website at www.hcsa.on.ca for updated trail conditions. For more information on visiting the Haliburton Highlands, call 1-800-461-7677 or visit www.haliburtonholidays.com.

Please be very careful while riding in early season conditions, always expect the unexpected. Remember: All lakes are not frozen and are not considered safe for travel.

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Storm to host Silver Stick AE tournament

This weekend the Highland Storm hosts the Silver Stick AE regional Bantam and Midget tournament.

The Bantam round robin is Sat., Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Dysart Community centre in Haliburton.

The Midget round robin Sat., Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden.

The Storm is not playing in the series.

The Sunday playoffs for Bantams and Midgets are both at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden.

8 a.m.: Bantam Semi-final

9:30 a.m.: Midget Semi-final

11 a.m.: Bantam Semi-final

12:30 p.m.: Midget Semi-final

2 p.m.: Bantam Championship

3:30 p.m.: Midget Championship

CARNARVON LANES

Tuesday night Dec. 4

Men

High Average: Ken Thompson 207

High Single: Ken Thompson & Dan Harding 244

High Single w/hdcp: Dan Harding 272

High Triple: Dan Harding 669

High Triple w/hdcp: Dan Harding 753

Women

High Average: Marlene Robinson 193

High Single: Sheri Hellerman 228

High Single w/hdcp: Sheri Hellerman 304

High Triple: Marlene Robinson 647

High Triple w/hdcp: Sheri Hellerman 825

Wednesday afternoon Dec. 5

Men

High Average: Ken Thompson 220

High Single: David Stokes 260

High Single w/hdcp: David Stokes 317

High Triple: David Stokes 673

High Triple w/hdcp: David Stokes 844

Women

High Average: Norma Terro 170

High Single: Anne Lampman 215

High Single w/hdcp: Anne Lampman 277

High Triple: Norma Terro 547

High Triple w/hdcp: Norma Terro 682

Thursday afternoon Dec. 6

Men

High Average: Ken Thompson 222

High Single: Bruno Campagnolo 323

High Single w/hdcp: Bruno Campagnolo 362

High Triple: Bruno Campagnolo 722

High Triple w/hdcp: Bruno Campagnolo 839

Women

High Average: Shirley Webb 176

High Single: Beverly Alexander 249

High Single w/hdcp: Beverly Alexander 299

High Triple: Shirley Webb 580

High Triple w/hdcp: Bernice Gillies 723

MINDEN LANES

Seniors Mixed 636, Dec. 3

Men

High Average: John Ritchie, 187

High Single: John Ritchie, 239

High Triple: John Ritchie, 607

High Single w/hdcp: John Ritchie, 270

High Triple w/hdcp: John Ritchie, 700

Women

High Average: Barb Ballantyne, 170

High Single: Estella Burch, 195

High Triple: Barb Ballantyne, 492

High Single w/hdcp: Estella Burch, 257

High Triple w/hdcp: Flo Roussel, 626

Nov. 26

Men

High Average: John Ritchie, 186

High Single: Ray McArthur, 212

High Triple: Ray McArthur, 595

High Single w/hdcp: Ray McArthur, 258

High Triple w/hdcp: Ray McArthur, 733

Women

High Average: Barb Ballantyne, 171

High Single: Georgi Parkes, 204

High Triple: Barb Ballantyne, 463

High Single w/hdcp: Georgi Parkes, 277

High Triple w/hdcp: Ann Oakley, Georgi Parkes, 672

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Haliburton curlers join competitive ranks

by NANCY WALKER
Special to the Times

Most people believe that the curling season may just be starting but for many young teams the season has been underway for four months. Six curlers from Minden and Haliburton are now into the thick of the competitive season and at least one is nearing his goal of another provincial championship.

The Ontario Junior Curling Tour is a series of bonspiels throughout Ontario that Junior and some Bantam teams compete in to accumulate points. The top eight teams in the tour are invited to a championship tournament later in the season. These bonspiels also earn the teams cash prizes and for practice leading up to the zone playdowns. At most of these bonspiels, there are 24 teams competing.

Jake and Jesse Walker along with Connor and Owen Duhaime, Curtis Nichol and Edward Cyr are among those in the competitive Junior and Bantam ranks this season. Jake's Junior Men team (20 and under) is based out of Oakville since the members are from different areas in Southern Ontario. Jesse's Bantam Boys team (16 and under) are based out of Peterborough where the other team members are from. Connor skips a Junior Men's team out of Richmond Hill. Curtis and Owen curl together on a Bantam team based in Peterborough and Edward plays with a team from Kitchener-Waterloo where he is attending University. They have been playing in such places as London, Oakville, Cambridge, Kitchener, and Brampton.

On November 17 and 18, Jake, Jesse, Connor, Owen, Curtis and Edward competed with their respective teams in the Junior Men's zone playdowns. Jake's team played in High Park in Toronto and won the B side championship. Jesse's team played in Woodville and won the A side championship. Connor played in Richmond Hill and won the A side. Curtis, Owen and Edward also competed in their zones but did not advance.

On the weekend of November 24 and 25, Jake, Jesse, and Connor all competed in

the regional playdowns which was held in Beaverton. The A and B side champions qualified to play in the Junior Men's provincial championships in Coldwater starting January 2, 2008.

The first game played had Jake's team playing against Jesse's team. Jake's team won that game, and went on to win the next two games and clinch the A championship. He now will be competing in the provincials in Coldwater.

Russ Duhaime/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES



The curling season is beginning to heat up for the competitive bantam and junior curlers. Jake Walker's Junior team has its sights set on a provincial Junior championship after placing first in his region. Owen Duhaime, Curtis Nichol and Jesse Walker are all aiming for success in the bantam division. Meanwhile, Jake, Curtis, Owen and Connor Duhaime make up the high school team. Shown here are Owen, Jake and Curtis in the front row. Jesse and Connor are in the back.

Jesse's Bantam team showed amazing skill for their age group of 14- and 15-year-olds, competing against older and more experienced curlers. After losing their first game, they went on to play the only other Bantam team there and won. They then played on Sunday morning and were once again victorious against a junior team, then went on to play the semifinal game and lost by only one point.

However Jesse's season is not over since the Bantam Boy's zone playdowns are in January.

Connor's team lost both their games and did not advance. However, they met their goal of winning their zone and advancing to regionals in their first year of playing in the Juniors and are still aiming for a spot in

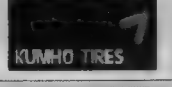
the tour championship.

The six boys are friends, teammates, and rivals and have the utmost respect for each other in the game of curling. They are to be congratulated for their dedication and success in the great sport of curling.

**Your source for
local sports**
The Minden Times

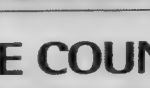


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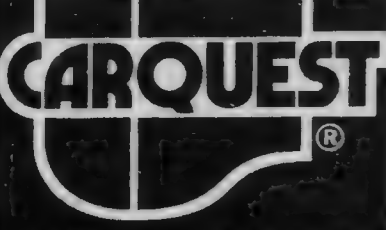
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Matt James/TIMES

Jeff Wood and son, Sam, 13, of Bracebridge heard the conditions were so good at Sir Sams they decided to make the trip down for opening day; they weren't disappointed.



No time to waste, Cameron's Carissa Buckley, 12, right, extends her arms just as her instructor Terrance Gavan does during a lesson on opening day. Gavan has been instructing at Sir Sams for the past four years.



10-year-old Curtis Ballantyne of Minden displays his rail-ability on Dec. 7 at Sir Sams Ski Resort on opening day.

Early start

Sir Sams Ski Resort kicked off the 2007-08 ski season with 11 of 12 runs open for the first time since marketing director Chris Bishop can remember, maybe even ever. Initially planning to open on Dec 8, the decision to open a day earlier made about 300 moms, dads, kids and seniors very happy. Schools were out on Friday thanks to a P.D. day.

All 12 runs were scheduled to be open on the weekend and two quad chairs were enough to move the skiers and snowboarders, and as far as conditions go, the 30-60 cm snow base is more than anyone could ask for at this time of year. Only one sprained wrist was reported by the ski patrol. A new addition to the resort this year is snowshoe trails and rentals; trail passes are \$10 for the day and snowshoe and pole rentals are \$15 a day.

Countdown to Christmas Shopping Guide

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Frost Centre ski trails now open for the season

Thanks to Mother Nature and the dedicated work of the volunteer team, the Frost Centre Ski Trails opened for the season on Thursday December 6. This was the earliest opening in many years.

The volunteers who manage and operate the trails are the "Ski Friends of the Frost Centre" and their website, www.skithefrost.ca, has a map, trail conditions and a season pass application form.

Many improvements have been made to the trail system. Last year the major project was a new warm-up shelter at the intersection of the Deer and Moose trails. This year a backhoe was used to improve drainage in several areas.

A good news item is the new 'biffy' in the parking lot that was a joint project of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, Haliburton Highlands Water Trails, the Frost Centre Institute, and the Ski Friends of the Frost Centre. This will help clients to be comfortable before they set out.

During the week the trails operate on the honour system. Skiers register, pay, and obtain trail maps at the self-serve kiosk. The daily adult fee is \$10.00 and school age children skiing with their parents are free. On weekends an attendant is there to welcome visitors. There is lots of parking space so come and enjoy one of Haliburton's choice winter experiences.



Wax up your skis and make your way to the Frost Centre ski trails. The trails have been open since December 6, the earliest opening in years.



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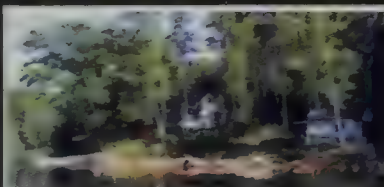
Home with 10 acres and frontage on the Irondale River. Totally private, well-treed property. 3 br, 2 baths, approx. 1500 sq. ft. of living space.

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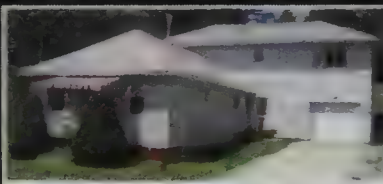
Contemporary, maintenance free, sleeps 10, dbl garage, level lot, sand beach, close to ski hill.

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**ULTIMATE WEEKEND RETREAT \$169,000**

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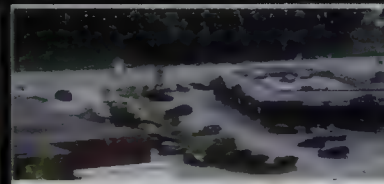
Sensational 4 bdr/ 3 bathrm home with attached heated garage. Home has hardwood floors, oak kitchen, and much more. Great in-town family home.

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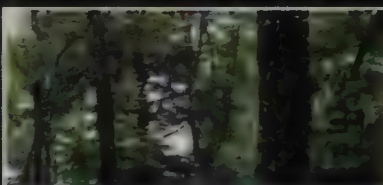
Great Commercial lot in high traffic area. Close to IGA, Home Hardware

Kristin Withey 286-2138

**WRAP IT UP FOR CHRISTMAS - \$629,000**

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**EAGLE LAKE AREA LOT \$26,900**

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Andrew Hodgson 286-2138

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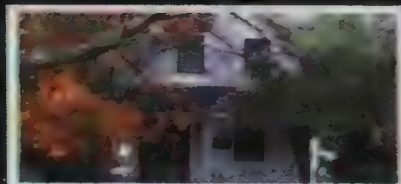
Great Value! Hardwood lot, year round private road, hydro & phone at lot line. Half km from public access. Nice slope for walk out basement and great views.

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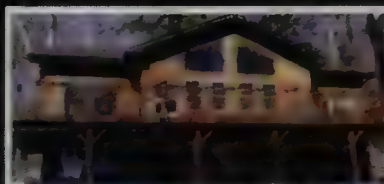
Renovated 2 storey office building. 8 separate offices. Ideal for professional or retail business. Close to all town services. High traffic area.

Kristin Withey 286-2138

**BOSHKUNG LAKE CHAIN \$459,900**

Charming 3 BR fully winterized and very cozy. On 3 lake chain with south exp. Large lakeside deck, rec room with franklin stove. New furnace.

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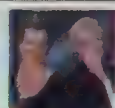
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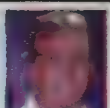
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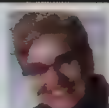
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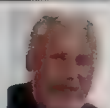
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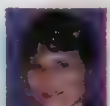
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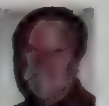
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Jenn Watt/TIMES

Terra, played by Dakota Francis, presents her pamphlet at the community forum on Riki Lansington's proposal to cut down the forest in the play *Theatre of the Earth*.

Battle between development and nature plays out

by JENN WATT
Times staff

Theatre for the Earth drew a full house at council chambers in Minden Saturday night. Afternoon rehearsal cleared the cast of pre-performance jitters and the evening performance ran smoothly,

despite a small technical glitch with the projector.

The play was written and performed by Grades 6, 7 and 8 students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. It chronicled a battle between children and a developer who was set upon cutting down the forest in Haliburton County to build a mall full of "stuff."

Ten students were involved: Daya Sweet, Cassie McCloy and Nicole Dollive as the wise old tree Ameera; Rylie Porter as Gertrude/Moonbeam the hippie; Puru Shah as Jeffrey an employee of Riki's lumbering company and Terra's father; Dakota Francis as Terra, a tree-loving youngster; Amy Dollimore as Riki Lansington the evil developer; and

Amanda Comi as Jason Lansington, Riki's son.

Vanessa Smith coordinated the play with funds from the Conjurors of County Town. The students were coached early on by Marci Mandel, Allana Ziorjen, Jack Brezina, Ryan Dawson, Sarah Delroy and Michael Fay.

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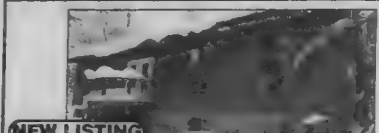
THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOW - \$219,000.00

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KUSHOG LAKE - \$319,000.00

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NEW LISTING

SILVERLYNN LAKE - \$334,900.00

3 bdr timberframe set on a gentle lot on a gorgeous quiet motor restricted Lake. This spacious home features soaring cath clgs, huge eat-in lot done in pine, sep DR, oak flrs throughout & full fin bsmt. Property is located 4 min from west Guilford with yr round access great privacy & deep water swimming.



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MINDEN HOME

Nice little 2 bdrm starter or retirement home. Very conveniently located within walking distance to all amenities. Features incl a lovely open kit/living & dining area & a totally renovated 4 pc bath full partially finished basement w/walkout, town water & sewers. Nice private back yard.

Writers' Christmas resonates with people far and wide

by PAULINE JOHNSON
Times staff

The atmosphere was wonderful. A Writers' Christmas, which took place at the Pepper Mill Restaurant in Carnarvon last week, had it all – people coming together from near and far, touching and humorous Christmas tales, Christmas music, delicious aromas, twinkling lights, beautiful decorations, gifts galore, laughter, wonder and even surprise when Amanda Anderson, a reporter from CTV, arrived to cover the event.

John Forrest, a member of the Mariposa Writers, drove from Orillia to enjoy the evening. Impressed with the number of people present and the variety of readings and musical performances on the program, he had nothing but praise for the way the Haliburton Highland Writers' and Editors' Network runs its gatherings. "I would like to invite Haliburton writers to Orillia later this year," he said, "to take part in readings at Literary Lapses at the Leacock Museum."

Of course, Haliburton County is accustomed to hosting memorable events and our local organizations and businesses do it well. Greg Turner, owner of the Pepper Mill Restaurant, provided a beautiful buffet served in front of a magical looking tree, shining brightly with hundreds of lights. Nobody sat down to eat without exclaiming that the food was fabulous. Salads, a tempting variety of rolls, shrimp, smoked oysters, fish, chicken in a tempting sauce, roast potatoes and the ever popular roast beef, cooked and carved to individual preference. Many folks like Bill Robinson said, "Please

Andrew Legge/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES



Between readings Kay Godden, Marjorie Ludlow Green, Pat Brown, Beth Johns, Jana Shaw and Riscylla Shaw sing Christmas carols for those gathered to hear seasonal tales.

remember to invite us back again next year. We've had such a good time."

Musical interludes by Linda Voycey, Tracy Green, Beth Johns, Marjorie Green, Kay Godden, and Riscylla and Jana Shaw delighted the audience at intermission. Resplendent in a sequined top that sparkled under the lights, Riscylla injected some humour of the season into the evening, sporting a red Santa hat perched jauntily on her head. Her rendition of Santa Baby, accompanied by her husband Jana, was a real crowd pleaser.

We all like to share the humorous things that happen

to us but sharing tales that are emotionally moving or that reveal our vulnerabilities takes a little more courage. The reason we do it is because we learn that what resonates with other writers brings us closer to people in our community and that's what living in Haliburton County is all about.

Many thanks go to the supporters of the silent auction, held for the first time this year. Donors of items included The Haliburton Echo, The Minden Times, Random House of Canada, Fleming College – The Haliburton School of the Arts, Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network, Heads Up Hair Stylists, The Grill on the Gull, The Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, The Red Umbrella Inn, Pine Reflections Gift Shop, Buckslide Trailer Park, Highlands Media Arts, The Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Haliburton ATV Association, Prentice Power Sports, Sharon Lawrence, Wendy Ladurantaye, Diana Burns, Tiina Heathcock, Pauline Johnson, Helen Allore, Marjorie Ludlow Green, Shirley McCormick, John Forrest and Heather Whaley, a songwriter and singer from Durham.

Thanks also go to the staff and executive of the Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network, Sam Davies, Tegan Moratz, Andrew Legge and Bob Johnson who came to lend us their expertise in running a silent auction.

Money raised will be put towards activities for writers in the county and HHWN is considering taking a booth at Word on the Street in Toronto next September. Everyone's generosity was outstanding. Giving is the supreme joy at Christmas and Haliburton has more than its share of joyous people this season.

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Writers' Christmas evokes the spirit of the season



STANHOPE LIFE

Gina Atkinson
489-1397 pine_reflections@yahoo.ca

Last Tuesday night Sharon Martella and I attended the third annual Haliburton Highlands Writers' and Editors' Network presentation of "A Writer's Christmas" at the Pepper Mill Restaurant. It was the first experience for me at one of these functions and I must say that I did enjoy myself. Presentations by different writers gave a real mix of all the emotions of this time of the year. Nostalgic, humorous and plain old fun.

Yours truly stuffed herself as usual. Who wouldn't? Buffets always do that to me. Then I promise myself to exercise the next day, do some stomach crunches. That just doesn't happen!

Sharon and I put bids on some silent auction things. She was successful and I wasn't. You have to be diligent about keeping guard over what you would like to take home. It can be quite the challenge since everyone has the same idea. Lots of hovering over the tables.

But as luck would have it, Sharon and I both won door prizes! Honest, it wasn't fixed.

They were also selling the new, much-talked about calendars where local artists are tastefully exposed. That's probably why they call it "Artists Exposed". After reading about it in the The Times it was interesting to leaf through the whole calendar.

Some of the copies are in my store for any of you who want to give a gift that will put a smile on your face for the whole year. This is a fundraising project of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation. Each page features one of our many Haliburton artists! Each month is set up with different artists who have a good sense of humor.

Speaking of gift suggestions, tickets are going extremely fast for the 2008 Travel Club Lottery. Not to repeat myself over and over again but this is a great gift for that hard-to-please person. Everyone has one on their list. This is a win-win for almost everyone. Eighteen people anyway, but most important, this is a fund-raiser for people that we support through our own Community Living association. Only 350 tickets are being sold.

Interesting trips, useful cash and these tickets will only be available until Dec. 31 with the first draw New Year's Eve. Winning tickets go back in for other draws. Wow!!



Jenn Watt/TIMES

David Archibald, right, entertains children anxiously awaiting Santa at the annual Stanhope Firefighters Association Christmas Party on Saturday. Dan Stiver, an organizer, said the party has been taking place for at least 20 years supported by year-round fundraising. Each of the 34 children got gifts from Santa.

This is a great way to support Community Living Haliburton County. Tickets can be picked up here at Pine Reflections or at their building on 713 Mountain St. in Haliburton. (457-2626). Christmas is the time to pass around goodwill and this is a wonderful way to do it.

My advice for this time of the year is to not stress over what to give, not to obsess on buying the perfect gift. My philosophy is to give what you would like to receive and spend only what you can afford. One important rule of thumb is to never, never ask someone what they would like. That's asking for just too much work and disappointment when you can't find it. Christmas should not be about who gives what or how big the package. The focus is on family and good friends.

So on that thought, amongst other suggestions I could give (if I were to get asked), these are two really neat ideas for you. Both are available here. Call me for any information or to reserve tickets or a calendar.

Just received word that the snowmobile trails are beginning to open across the Highlands. Is this a surprise? With all this snow, no one should complain this year about a short winter season. Of course, the credit (or blame) goes to my sister-in-law Wendy who just moved up here from Barrie; we all know what their winters are like. It just has

to be her magnetic personality.

So as much as they are saying this is a good winter and HCSA volunteers are hard at work preparing trails, this is not gospel for every trail. You are being asked to not use any trails that are not marked as open and there's a big huge reminder that all lakes are not safe for travel.

There is always someone who jumps the gun every winter - please don't be that person!

If you want to know about trail conditions check the website at www.hcsa.on.ca for updates.

For you ski/snowboard enthusiasts out there, Sir Sam's wants me to let you know that their season began last Friday, Dec. 7.

Sir Sam's is now offering snowshoe trails and rentals this season. They describe it as "a picturesque trail" that winds along ski trails, through hardwood/evergreen forests and fields that were once the estate property of Sir Sam Hughes. It is a 4km trail that takes you to the top of the hill to a magnificent view over Eagle and Moose Lakes.

Information on days open, rates and schedule of events contact Chris Bishop sirsams.skiarea@bellnet.ca, www.sirsams.com or by that old fashioned way: 705-754-2287.

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Dorset lights tree, town with Christmas spirit



DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
melalfano@hotmail.com

Dorset had a great turn out for the Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Carolling on Sunday, December 2. It was one of the best! A big shout of thanks to the Dorset Lions Club and the Dorset Fire Department and all the participants who came out to celebrate the holiday spirit! Brad Robinson was the official tree lighter for this 14th year of the event.

Brad thanked everyone for the honour. He thought he was in good company and made a joke about having great power in his hand and turned the switch to light up the spirit of Christmas in Dorset.

This note is from the Dorset Fire Department: "The Annual Food and Toy Drive for the Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 5 was another huge success. We, the Dorset Fire Department, the Dorset Lions, four Santas, students, and friends collected over one and one quarter tons of food and toys plus some cash donations, that's a HUGE contribution from our LITTLE town! There is still a buggy at Robinson's General Store, if you would like to contribute over the next couple of weeks. Way to go Dorset."

The Dorset Heritage Museum would like to remind everyone that the 2008 calendars make a great Christmas gift. New pictures featuring people and places from Dorset's past. Maybe you or a family member is featured this year? They also have a wonderful cookbook called Heritage Cooking, a Collection of Recipes from a Lifetime of Cooking. It includes recipes from the kitchens of the first homes in the Muskoka and Haliburton region. This collection by Jennie McLennan occasionally includes a story that relates to the recipe and the wonderful times shared over good food. You can purchase the calendars at the local Post Office and Dorset TimBr Mart, and the calendars and cookbooks at Robinson's General



Matt James/TIMES

Dorset residents gathered inside and outside the Dorset fire department on Dec 2 for the tree-lighting ceremony. The turnout was one of the best ever. Here Folks crowd around an outdoor fireplace singing Christmas carols.

Yoga mats will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing and bring a water bottle if you like. All are welcome!

Birthday wishes for the week of December 9 to 15 go out to Pat Schell, Cameron Nash, Donald McEachern, Marian Frieday, Jeannine Dunn, Barb Jordan, Tony Arkell and Happy Anniversary to Bill and June Johnson and Marg and Charlie Schwab. Celebrate and have fun on your special day!

To submit an item of interest or a birthday wish, please email me at melalfano@hotmail.com or give me a call at 705-766-0076

www.haliburtonecho.ca

The Township of
Minden Hills
In Season, Every Season

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

Council of the Township of Minden Hills, at its Council meeting of October 25, 2007, has requested deferment of the mandatory "clear plastic bags" for garbage disposal until after the Council meeting in November 2007. Council will approve the "clear plastic bag" use commencing January 1st, 2008, to coincide with neighbouring municipalities who are targeting the same date for implementation. The use of "clear plastic bags" will become **mandatory** at that time, and the Township of Minden Hills would like to thank their residents and business owners for their continued support in extending the life of all our existing landfill sites within our Township. Please note: clear plastic bags are available at most local outlets.

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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO Earn your High School Diploma

New to the Adult Education and Learning Centre
73 Victoria Street:

**NIGHT SCHOOL FOR
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Starting on January 9, 2008

Ask about your eligibility for maturity credits
Graduation may be closer than you think!

Registration to take place on
Tuesday, December 18th, 2007, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
The old VICTORIA STREET SCHOOL
Enquiries please call 457-3745

AETC
Adult Education and Training Centres

Stouffer Mill hosts afternoon of singing

The "Minden Grandmothers", who are raising money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, invite you to a Joyous Christmas Afternoon on Sunday, Dec. 16 between 2 and 5 p.m..

The annual event is hosted by Stouffer Mill B&B, 9 km north of Carnarvon, off Hwy 35 (follow Stouffer Mill Rd).

Performers include the Tri-Vocals, Marsha Sweet, Dave Hawley and his gang, all under the direction of Melissa Stephens. There will be a spectacular 16' Christmas tree, as well as Christmas goodies and stocking stuffers made by the Grannies.

GARBAGE — the solution is *clear*

Clear plastic garbage bags have proven to be an effective way of reducing the amount of recyclable material and household hazardous waste that gets thrown away with garbage.

Effective January 1, 2008 clear plastic garbage bags will be mandatory for the disposal of household garbage at all landfill sites within the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

1123 North Shore Rd., RR#2, Minden, ON N0M 2K0
Phone: 705-489-2379 • Fax: 705-489-3491

Email: info@algonquinhighlands.ca • www.algonquinhighlands.ca





From left are: the Rev Tim Sharpe (Anglican Parish of Minden-Kinmount), the Rev John Patterson (United Church), the Rev Riscylla Shaw (Anglican Parish of Minden-Kinmount), the Rev Max Ward (Highland Hills Pastoral Charge, United), Barbara Trocewicz (Anglican Parish of Minden-Kinmount), the Rev Ross Fogwell (Norland Pioneer Baptist) and the Rev Ron Mahler (Highlands Community Church, Minden). Absent is the Rev Father Tony Barol, Our Lady of Fatima, Roman Catholic.

Churches invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with them

This is a season of joy and celebration. The Minden ministerial association invites everyone to join them at special services throughout Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

3 p.m. Family Service at Zion United Church
7 p.m. Family Service at Minden United Church
9 p.m. Communion Service at Maple Lake United Church

7 p.m. Holy Communion at St Paul's Anglican, Minden
9 p.m. Holy Communion at St James Anglican, Kinmount
11:00pm Midnight Mass at St Paul's Anglican, Minden

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25

10 a.m. Traditional English service of Holy Communion at St Peter's Anglican, Maple Lake



Lauretta is an Easter Seals kid whose enthusiasm and energy inspired me to write the very popular book ZOOM! You can inspire other children like Lauretta through your support for Easter Seals. Your donation helps children with physical disabilities in Ontario succeed. — Robert Munsch

www.easterseals.org

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LAST FEW DAYS TO MATCH THE SANTAS!
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Contest Closes December 15th

Fill out the entry form matching each Santa with the store they work at.
Hint: Visit each business to complete your ballot.

Drop your ballot into the Ballot Boxes at any of the participating stores or at the Minden Times and Haliburton Echo offices.

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CONTEST RUNS FROM NOVEMBER 28TH – 5PM DECEMBER 15TH

All entries must be on ORIGINAL NEWSPRINT. The first correct entry drawn will be the winner and receive \$425.00 in gift certificates. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Contest entry forms in the November 28th edition of the Minden Times and the November 30th issue of the Highlands Weekender. Winner will announced in the Wednesday December 19th edition of the Minden Times and the Friday December 21st edition of the Highlands Weekender.

Name: _____
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Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

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Country Magic # _____	Lea's Lawn & Recreation # _____	Minden ValuMart # _____	Stedmans V&S # _____
Cox's Apparel # _____	McMahon Feeds 'N' Needs # _____	My Size Clothing # _____	The Storeroom # _____
Dollar Days # _____	Minden Home Hardware # _____	Photo Solutions # _____	Whispers North # _____
Golden Stationers # _____			

Dinner sends young man to World Youth Day



AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury
488-2938 Fax: 488-1246
email: brucefleury@ptbo.igs.net

To my delight my husband Bruce now makes a Christmas wish list. This year's version included a bicycle, nothing fancy with gears, but one that he could ride down the long lane to pick up the mail and, in general, enjoy more exercise opportunities. Off we went to Canadian Tire in Lindsay and found the perfect model. Our line-up was at a standstill and the cashier beside kindly reached over and rang through my purchase unfortunately neglecting to remove the security knob firmly fixed to the handle bars. On exit all the bells sounded and not for glad tidings at Christmas.

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Minden Legion

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We offer a broad selection of tunes
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Suspicious glances came our way from every direction and we were most grateful that our neighbours in the next line had already left the store.

For your post holiday reading be sure to drop by the Friends of the Kinnmount Library book sale this Saturday, December 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Enjoy some seasonal refreshments and meet the members of the Friends committee who hold a book sale on the third Saturday of every month in the lower level of the Kinnmount Library.

St. Patrick's Parish will be holding a Dinner & Loonie Auction this Saturday, December 15 in the Galway Hall at 6 p.m. for a very special project. Funds raised will be used towards sponsoring Tim Pearson's attendance at World Youth Day and Rally in Sydney, Australia in July 2008. Tickets are \$12 and, while advance notice of your attendance would be appreciated for meal planning purposes, tickets will also be available at the door. For more information or tickets give Madeline a call at 488-2217.

Bundle up and welcome Santa as his parade, sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #441 and the Kinnmount Committee for Planning & Economic Development, moves along Main Street this Sunday, December 16 starting at 2 p.m.. Afterwards follow the parade as it winds its way up the Legion for a chance to visit with Santa and enjoy refreshments.

For that special local handcrafted Christmas gift visit the Kinnmount Artisans Marketplace on the lower level of the Community Centre and shop tax free in December. The Marketplace will be open daily from December 14 through 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Now for the Scoring News with your usual reminder to keep busy and well They go together.

December 4 Stanhope Firehall Seniors Mixed Shuffleboard: In top spot at 263 were Ken Boldt and June Fortune with Connie Sawyer and Jim Meadows next at 211. Flo Roussel and our reporter Pearl Cowen came third at 198 while Merv Elstone teamed with Joan

Meadows tallied up the afternoon's low of 101.

December 4 bid euchre at Minden Legion: Single moonshots went to Pat Roussel, Bev Johnson, Marcy Morgan, Trudy Kroes and Margaret Bull with Don Burch taking two. High lady was Isobel Cherwenka at 323 then Elli Langpohl 259 and Phyllis Windsor 250 with Len Kroes leading the gents at 344, Don Burch second at 275 and Pat Scadden third at 263. The draw winners were Edith Burch, Marcy Morgan, Helen Henderson and Jesse Barlow. A special thank you is sent to all who attend from Pat and Jean Scadden for their support over the year along with best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

December 4 contract bridge at Stanhope: There were two Slams one by Edith Kolarek and Margo Davidson and the other by Jacqueline and Kelly Metcalf. Highest score holder was Diana Spicer at 6830 followed by Paul Pethick 5460, Linda Cherry 5140 and Harold Cox 5090. Kelly Metcalf won the lucky draw, Kathie Porter the Shiny Penny while Diana Spicer took home the G.O.T.H. Award being acknowledged as the Goddess of the Hunt.

December 5 bid euchre at Stanhope: Moonshots landed on Pat Scadden, Bill Milford, Dave Switzer, Betty Wagar, Gala Stamp, Jean Dutka, Dick Coffey and Helen Windsor. Tom Grix topped the whites at 324 then Pat Scadden 273 and Dick Coffey 267 while Marj Coffey led the pinks at 285 with Marj Hamilton 260 next and Trudy Kroes third at 258.

December 5 Kinnmount Seniors euchre at Kinnmount Legion: For the ladies Emily Harvie was high and Mildred St. Thomas low with Mike St. Thomas high man and Harold Harvie low.

Mike also won for lone hands while Theresa Deak took the draw.

December 5 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: North/South winners at 58% were Stella McMillan and Ross Davies with Linda Cherry and our bridge correspondent Ross Fletcher next at 55%. Over in East/West the honours went to Jacqueline and Kelly Metcalf at 57% then Lois Emmerson partnered with Ev Morgan at 56%.

December 6 euchre at Minden Legion: Lone hand holders were Karen Chapman and Jim Bradbury with Eileen Shapiera high lady and Elva Paisley low. Leading the gents was Bob Pollard with Bob Cleverly low man while the other prizes went to Tom Grix, Kevin Maloney, Maria Tschida, Pearl Cowen and Bob Pollard.

December 7 duplicate bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: Judy Neimann and Kathie Porter were first in North/South at 66% then Muriel McIntosh partnered with Ross Davies at 59%. East/West honours went to Margo Davidson and Ross Fletcher at 68% then Joan Davies and Sue Pethick at 51%.

December 7 bid euchre at Club 35: Moonshot trio members were Jean Dutka [2], Pat Scadden and Betty Wagar with Jean also holding the hidden score. It was a "Scadden" event with Jean first for the pinks at 292 then our reporter Mary Pearson 243 and Barbara Gregory 230 while Pat led the whites at 280 followed by Garth

see MAKE A BID page 23



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HALIBURTON

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Make a bid for a good laugh at weekly card games

from page 23

Windsor 260 second and Fred Gregory 245 third.

December 8 bid euchre at Staunworth Terrace, Minden: Gala Stamp reports that Pearl Cowen, Albert Foster and Marcel Roussel had the moonshots. For the white cards Theresa Deak was high at 302 then Albert Foster 289 and Pat Scadden 252 with Isobel Cherwenka topping the pinks at 285, Verna McDonald second at 262 and Marcy Morgan 254 third.

December 10 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: The top trio in order were Emily Harvie, Dana Briscoe and Phyllis Windsor. Marjorie Paradis had the only moonshot of the afternoon while Mike St. Thomas won the draw.

December 10 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: Lone hand honours went to Joyce Ritchie and Bill Mosley with Jeanne Keliele holding the hidden score. Kay Orr and Gala Stamp recorded the high scores with Barbara Braithwaite and Syd Adamson taking the lows.

Special prizes were awarded to Verna McDonald and Al. Tim Sharpe reminds that the group will be together for euchre

next Monday, December 17 then break for the holidays returning for cards on January 7, 2008.

December 10 euchre at Club 35: Jean Randell was a double winner taking the prize for most lone hands and the prestigious bologna. For the ladies Clara Miscio was high and Carol Hill low with Perry Morrison leading the gents and Robert McIvor low man.

December 10 cribbage at Minden Legion: Elva Paisley reports results first from December 3rd with Bob Cleverley taking top honours then Marion Stickwood in second spot. Other winners were Eileen Shapiera and Gwen Cox. For December 10 Gwen Cox came first then Sharron Atkinson and Helen Luffman with Joe Rivers, Lois Adamson, Ann Cundall and Gwen Cox taking home the other prizes.

December 10 euchre at Staunworth Terrace, Minden: Elaine Yeo reports that Don Jemmett won for high hands, Pearl Cowen for lone hands, Carol Derbyshire for low hands and John Sparks for the special prize. Please note that there will not be cards at the Terrace on either Christmas or New Year's Eve.

community calendar

What's happening in the Highlands

CURRENT EVENTS



**MINDEN HOME HARDWARE
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Dec. 12: Haliburton Well Baby Drop-In Clinic. Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing & developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton (Halco Plaza) from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info. call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- Dec. 12: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. We are having our Christmas party for our members, which is sure to be a great time. For info call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Dec. 12: Lochlin United Church Annual Community "Old Fasioned Christmas Carol Sing-Along", Wed., 7:30 p.m. Lochlin Road off County Rd. #1, Lochlin. Refreshments following: Hot cider & Christmas goodies. Donations to the Food Bank gratefully accepted.
- Dec. 12: The Minden Women's Institute Christmas Potluck Lunch will be held at the United Church on December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Members are invited to bring a friend to join in the fun. Please call to confirm attendance. We hope to see some new faces, so please contact Del at 286-4884 or Pam at 754-1656.
- Dec. 12: Join the Community Care Diners Club for a family style Chinese lunch at Win Yeung's in Haliburton, the lunch begins at 12 noon. These luncheons offer fun, friendships and great food. Call 457-2941 if you would like to attend Diners Club.
- Dec. 12: All Community Care Volunteers are invited for a Christmas Luncheon in the Drop In Centre at Community Care. Come enjoy a wonderful free lunch, meet other volunteers, and have a visit from Santa.
- Dec. 13: Health & Safety Training available to Employer/Employees in the County. Standard First Aid training is being held on Dec. 13 from 8:30 to 4 p.m. If you are interested please phone 457-5345 to register or e-mail info@pointintime.ca.
- Dec. 13: Minden Well Baby Drop-In Clinic. Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing & developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Minden (inside Sears Building) from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- Dec. 15: Fleming College's Haliburton School of The Arts is holding a pre-Christmas Art Show & Sale. A wide range of colorful & exciting works will be exhibited, showcasing the talents of its students. The show will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the main campus' Great Hall, is located off of Industrial park Road, on College Drive. Just follow the signs. Call 457-1680.
- Dec. 18: The Highlands Male Chorus and CBC Radio's LIKE THE DICKENS at Haliburton United Church, Tues., 7:00 p.m.. The Dicken's Christmas Story as read by CBC's Christopher Thomas and four other local personalities. There will be music, carols and refreshments to follow. Proceeds to the four food banks in the county. Donations of non-perishable food gratefully accepted. For ticket information call 286-3248 or 457-4719 or e-mail ron.clark@sympatico.ca
- Dec. 20: Play & Learn in Wilberforce with the Ontario Early Years Mobile Outreach - Lloyd Watson Centre. Drop-in & see us every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parents & children 0-6 years will enjoy activities, crafts, & active circle times; toy & book lending; ideas to help keep kids healthy & safe; nutritional snacks; & guest speakers. Call 457-2989 for info.
- Dec. 22: Blood Donor Clinic - Haliburton Legion, 16 Mountain Street, 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 23: Highland Lakes Community Church presents: "Celebrating Christmas In The County," Sun. at 10:30 a.m., at the Minden Hills Community Centre in Minden. All are welcome to attend this family Christmas season event (our very first!) Special musical guests from Halls Lake, Our children's program, Carol singing, a dramatic presentation of the Christmas story & more! Festive goodies & refreshments avail.
- Dec. 24 - St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden welcomes everyone to their Christmas Eve services at 7 p.m. and 11p.m. We are delighted to welcome back English bass-baritone Martin Elliott as our guest soloist at both services.
- Jan. 9: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. For our program we will have a sharing of ideas from various members who have attended workshops outside of our Guild. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. & guests & new members are always welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Feb. 13: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. We will be working on a Sudoku quilt with the meeting starting at 1 p.m. New members welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.
- Mar. 12: The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is meeting at the Minden Lion's Club. Doors open at 11 a.m. Our program will be tips & techniques round robin. The general meeting starts at 1 p.m. New members welcome. Call Anita Dobell, 457-3723.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to editor@haliburtonecho.ca, or brought in to the office. Please submit events by the Thursday prior to the requested publication date.
NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in the Echo for more information on events in the Highlands.



Empties fill fire department's coffers

Beer and liquor bottles funded the latest donation to the Minden Hills Fire Department. Dave and Patricia Bradley gathered bottles left over from a summer of customers at the Southwind Motel and used the refunds to donate \$350 to the fire department and \$150 to the Kinmount Lions Club. "Rather than all the bottles going to the dump, this funds charity and the community," Dave said. "It's a win for everybody." Dave and Patricia said that this model of giving could be used by other accommodation-based businesses in the area. In photo is Dave Bradley, left, with Minden Hills Fire Chief Doug Schell.

Martha Perkins/TIMES



Hark the herald angels sing!



There's nothing like music to celebrate the story of Jesus' birth at Christmastime. On Sunday afternoon, St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden was host to 100 people who took part in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Following each Biblical reading there was a song by either a soloist, the church choir, above, or the entire congregation, top. Led by organist and choir director Elaine Bell, at left, the service was both inspiring and joyful. The Rev. Riscylla Shaw, above left, shared the blessings of the season.

The **Times**
MINDEN ONTARIO



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MERCHANDISE

Firewood A180

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Miscellaneous A230

FOR SALE - FAO heating system, 134K BTU DuoMatic, 200 Gal Tank (2yrs old), \$495. obo. Call 286-6889

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PART TIME

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FOR SALE - Pool table 4x8 + acc., \$300. K2 Snowboard, 145cm, \$100. 286-5173



PETS & AGRICULTURE

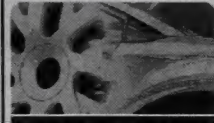
Dogs A310

FOR SALE - Beagle Blue Tick puppies, 5 females, dewormed, ready to go Dec 19! Purebred beagle puppies, 5 males, 2 females, dewormed, ready to go Jan 7th. Call 286-6930



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TRANSPORTATION

Cars A400

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Vans/ Trucks A420

Must See!

1986 CHEV PICKUP
K-10 4X4 /cap with 7.5 ft Meyer plow. Hydraulic with light bar. \$1,700. call 705-754-2284 or 905-898-7287



RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Snowmobiles A490

FOR SALE - 1987 Tundra Snowmobile, great shape, new \$800 track, new motor, asking \$1,500. firm. 286-6172



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Miscellaneous A230

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RENTALS

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Apartments A610
Unfurnished

FOR RENT - Large newly renovated two bedroom apt. In town 2 storey. Lots of storage space \$925. Includes heat. Call 457-9108

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Wanted to Buy

A280

Wanted!

FIREARMS FOR UPCOMING AUCTIONS:
Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Ammunition, Military Medals, Edged Weapons. As Estate Specialists we manage the sale of unregistered firearms and assist with the sale of expired certificates. Call Paul @ Switzer's Auction. 613-332-5581 or 1-800-694-2609 or email: info@switzersauction.com for a FREE consultation. Watch for updated listings @ www.switzersauction.com Next Sale: Feb. 9th

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For further information, or if you have any questions, email us at ospreyclassified@ospreymedia.ca or call toll free 1-866-541-6757

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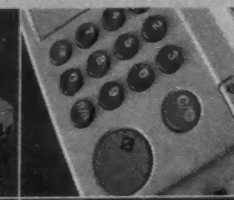
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<http://online.ospreymedia.ca>



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Follow the easy steps to book your ad into the Osprey Classified section of most Osprey newspapers. You can add attention getting graphics or your own photo to the ad — *it's so easy!*

Apartments A610
Unfurnished

ON 12 MILE LAKE
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\$650+ hydro, fridge,
stove, with coin op
laundry in building,
parking, walk out to
deck, no pets, First &
Last, References
Required. Call Laurie
(705)489-3739

Need publicity for your
upcoming event? Call
Osprey Classifieds at
1-866-541-6757 to get
noticed!

Houses A650

FOR RENT - 2 Bdrm
furnished house,
electric heat, utilities
included. Available
now. Call 489-2550

FOR RENT - 3+1 bdrm
house, downtown
Minden, Fridge/Stove.
Available Jan 1, \$800
plus util. Call 286-3038

Shared A670
Accommodations

WANTED - Semi-retired
gent needs winter room
& board ASAP, or room
with cooking facilities.
Call 286-5095 or email
dorarex@aol.com

WILBERFORCE
Furnished new house to
share with professional
male. Clean with new
furniture and appliances.
Large property. Private
bathroom. Non-smoker.
Available now. 400/mo.
Utilities included Chris
705-448-9695

**VACATION & TRAVEL****PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****General Employment A800****HELP WANTED**

Permanent Part-time receptionist needed for a busy Veterinary Hospital. Self starter, team player, animal lover and someone that can handle a hectic pace. Previous reception and computer experience is a must. Resumes can be dropped off at the Minden Animal Hospital, emailed to mindenanimalhospital@gmail.com or mailed to Box 429, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
No phone calls please.

General Employment A800**ATTENTION READERS**

Osprey Media strongly recommends that readers never send money in response to Employment or Job Opportunity advertisements.

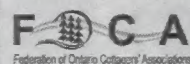
Does this space look just right for your ad? Call Osprey at 1-866-541-6757 and make it a reality

EDUCATION**General Employment A800****NOW HIRING**
Lake Planning Coordinator

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations is seeking a highly motivated individual to support and coordinate a new collaborative lake planning project, with the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council. The project coordinator will develop resources and tools to support the lake planning efforts of waterfront communities.

This contract position, located in Peterborough, is 18 months in duration with a start date of January 14th 2008. Complete position details are available at www.foca.on.ca.

Interested candidates should submit a one page cover letter, current resume and 3 work references to the attention of Nicole Tuyten, Stewardship Coordinator nicole.tuyten@ontario.ca by 4:30 pm on December 31, 2007.



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations



This initiative has been developed with the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation

Employment Wanted A850**OUR GUESTS AREN'T
THE ONLY ONES
WHO LIKE TO STAY HERE.**

Delta Hotels is Canada's leading hotel chain with over 35 hotels from coast to coast. We need dynamic individuals to join our team. Candidates will share our passion and dedication for providing quality service. Delta's commitment to our employees is validated by our consistent ranking as one of the 50 Best Employers in Canada by the Globe & Mail's Report on Business Magazine. Delta Hotels has also received both the Quality and Healthy Workplace trophies from the National Quality Institute.

Delta Pinestone Resort is currently recruiting for the following permanent year round positions:

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We thank all applicants for their interest in Delta Hotels.

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Delta Hotels is an equal opportunity and employment equity employer.

**NOTICES****COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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Legal Notices A900**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND OTHERS**

All claims against the Estate of **WILLIAM PETER ANGLE SR.**, late of the Town of Minden, in the Province of Ontario, Who died on September 17, 2007, must be filed with the undersigned personal representative on or before January 5, 2008, thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2007
THEODORE M. CHARUK
Barrister and Solicitor
Suite 200, 25 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1H1

Coming Events A940

Highlands Wind Symphony
10th Annual Christmas Concert
Featuring Soprano Soloist
Cicela Mansson
Monday, December 17th
7:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Haliburton
Tickets Available at:
Masters Bookstore, Haliburton
Pharmasave Drugstore, Minden
Adults \$10.00 Students \$5.00
Family Rate: \$20.00
For information call 457-2862

Coming Events A940

A Joyous Christmas Afternoon
Haliburton Highlands Grannies
Sun Dec 16: 2 - 4 pm.
Stouffer Mill B & B
Admission by donation

Unexpected kittens? Find a good home for them with an ad in the Pets & Agriculture section of your Osprey Classifieds. We work for you!
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**PERSONALS****Dating A980**

COLD AND lonely winter ahead? Don't let it be a cold and lonely spring! Misty River Introductions can help you find that special someone. Ontario's largest, most successful, back-to-basics matchmaking services is just a call away! 705-734-1292
www.mistynriverintros.com

**GARAGE SALES****Coming Events A940**

Haliburton Rotary Club's SNOWARAMA
RIDE For Easter Seals Kids.
January 26, 2008 at Haliburton Forest.
Your Pledge of Financial Support would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to: The Haliburton Rotary Club, C/O Arthur Dawson, P.O. Box 515, Haliburton, Ontario K0M1S0.
A registered Receipt will be issued

Coming Events A940**WINTERGREEN MAPLE SYRUP AND PANCAKE BARN****Christmas Social**
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sat/Sun Dec. 15 & 16 and Sat/Sun Dec. 22 & 23

MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Surprise family and friends with exotic food gifts for Christmas. Wintergreen specializes in custom-made sauces, syrups and preserves unlike anything in the marketplace. Our latest creations are drawn from the past: **Old-Fashioned Spiced Crabapples**, ideal with meats; colourful **Gingered Pumpkin Preserve**; and our newest line of **Fruit Wine Vinegars**, ideal for salads or marinades. Numerous products can be assembled into a variety of gift baskets to make excellent hostess or Christmas gifts. Our regular maple menu will be available while you shop, and taste many of the products at our sample table. **Pies will be available (phone to reserve).** Cash or cheque only. Come and enjoy Christmas at WINTERGREEN.

Call 705-286-3202

Located in Gelert, #3325 Gelert Rd. (formerly Cty. Rd. #1)

Business Service DIRECTORY

Cleaning Services S160

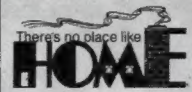
HOUSE CLEANER
available, experienced,
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Landscaping S230
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Roofing S300

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Over 25 Years of Experience

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www.sbsteel.ca

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****Business Services S370**

ROOF SHOVELLING, SNOWPLOWING, SIDEWALK CLEANING
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CLASSIFIEDS
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Business/ Franchise Opps S380**ATTENTION READERS**

Osprey Media strongly urges readers to investigate potential Business Franchise Opportunities before sending money in response to advertisements.

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Announcements

Deaths

HERLIHEY, Elizabeth "Bette" (Nee Byers) - Passed away suddenly at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Saturday, December 8, 2007. In her 98th year.

Beloved wife of the late Malcolm Robertson "Bob" Herlihey. Dear mother of Heather Judson of London, Robert Herlihey and his wife Donna of Mississauga. Loving grandmother of Ian and his wife Bernice, Taylor and his wife Denise, Neil, Andrew, Jessica, Dana, Francesca and great grandmother of Merlin. Dear sister of Walter Byers and his wife Betty. Fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.**, 127 Main St., P.O. Box 427, MindenKOM 2K0 www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. Then to the Minden United Church for the Funeral Service on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 11:00 am. Spring Interment at the Minden Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or the Minden United Church would be appreciated by the family.

10929178

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BIRTHDAY CHRIS!**

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- Family and reception centre
- Kids play room
- Bereavement support services & lending library
- Affordable cost options

Deaths

STEWART, John Ellis - Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at the age of 84.

Beloved husband of the late Gladys Mary (nee Murphy) (May 11, 1989). Dear father of Gerry Lalla and loving grandfather of Christopher, Anthony and Melissa. Dear brother of Betty Forrester.

Cremation has taken place. A Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, Victoria Rd. in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.** P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KOM 2K0 www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com.

10929871

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the help along the way,
the special things you do.
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to tell someone
how much they are appreciated.
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Thank You

A thank you note or
card of thanks is
always appreciated.

Say thank you in...



Phone 1-866-541-6757

Funeral Services

Deaths

VINEY, Margaret - Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at the age of 84.

Beloved husband of the late Gladys Mary (nee Murphy) (May 11, 1989). Dear father of Gerry Lalla and loving grandfather of Christopher, Anthony and Melissa. Dear brother of Betty Forrester.

Cremation has taken place. A Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, Victoria Rd. in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the **Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.** P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KOM 2K0 www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com.

10930361

Funeral Services

Thank You

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Say thank you in...



Phone 1-866-541-6757

Funeral Services

A Candlelight Memorial Service

You are cordially invited to ...



A Light in the Darkness

To Celebrate Christmas
for those who are
experiencing grief

Tuesday December 18, 2007, 7 p.m.
Haliburton Community Funeral Home

13523 Hwy. 118, Haliburton, Ontario

Refreshments will be served following the service.

Special Music by Organist Glenda Dunning & Soloist Glenda Burk

Through music, scriptures, meditations and prayers.

A service of reflection for those who have experienced loss
and find it hard to be part of festive celebrations.

With clergy and volunteers from local churches and the community

A caring part of our community

Please bring a photograph of your loved one, framed or
unframed, if you wish,

to use as part of the Remembrance ceremony.

R.S.V.P.

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\$149,900

North Shore Road: A legal duplex providing a great opportunity to rent out one level to help pay your mortgage and live on the other level. 3 bedrooms, laundry & bath on main floor and 2 bedrooms, laundry and bath on lower level. Both levels have full kitchens. **Call Ken Barry**



Ken Barry • Ext 228 • 457-1011



\$269,000

Brick Home: Immaculate 3 bdrm. home situated on a lovely landscaped lot, close to 4 beaches. Backs onto crown land. Fireplace, open concept, hardwood flooring. Ideal for the handyman, 2 out bldgs. with heated workshop. **Call Troy Austen & Linda Baumgartner**



Troy Austen & Linda Baumgartner • Ext 231 • 457-1011



\$1,100,000

Resort - Golf Course: The ultimate retreat w/excellent cash flows from 5 businesses w/over 3300 ft. frontage on fabulous Elephant Lake. Call now for a personal introduction to this outstanding property. **Call Peter Brady**



Peter Brady • Ext 234 • 457-1011



\$224,900

Turn-key rural residential property on 5.76 acres. 2+1 bdrms, 2 baths, lg eat-in kit, w/step dining area, HP laundry rm, att. 2 car gar. Many upgrades - all ceramic & laminate thru-thru-out, new shingles '06 & new drilled well pump. Newly reno'd liv'ng & fam'ly rm with wds, 2 REIT certified wood stoves. Lush Lake front access 2 mins away. Super bush potential. 1 km to the 5-Points snowmobile. AT/UTD bike trail system. **Call Steve Brand**



Steve Brand • Ext 45 • 286-2911



\$229,000

Portage Lake: Super cottage, close to Haliburton. Nestled along the sand shoreline w/over 150 ft. of frt. for good privacy. This 3 bdrm., 1 bath. cottage has a great view of the lake, w/a sandy beach, & deep water off the end of the dock. Off a yr. md. township road. **Call Geoff Bunn**



Geoff Bunn • Ext 242 • 457-1011



\$629,999

AMAZING WATERFRONT OPPORTUNITY! Purchase this beautiful home or cottage and gain instant equity! This 3 bdrm., 3 bathroom property with 103 ft. of frontage on Lake Kashagwigamog has been appraised and is listed UNDER the appraised value! Gorgeous sand beach, great for children - deep water off the dock. This executive property is ready to go! **Call Terry Carr**



Terry Carr • Ext 236 • 457-1011



\$209,000

Gull River: A short distance up from Gull Lake. A delightful 3 bdrm. cottage, 4 pc. bath, w/o master, Canac kitchen, FP, airtight, main floor ldr., new roof, freshly painted, level lot, hard sand w/shallow entry, completely winterized & 2 km to Minden. **Call Fred Chapple**



Fred Chapple • Ext 43 • 286-2911



\$84,900

1.15 ac property: Located on a yr. md. road, less than 10 min. from the amenities of Minden Village & has plenty of space. 2 bdrm. home, huge front deck, perennial gardens, 4 pc. bathroom w/stackable washer & dryer, open kit/JDR area, cozy LR w/ laminate wood flooring. **Call Deb Deremo**



Deb Deremo • Ext 239 • 457-1011



\$199,900

Charming Country Home: Situated on 3.65 acres with a mixture of field & forest. The log portion of the home is full of history & charm while the addition provides a modern touch w/high cath. ceiling, new kit, bathroom w/whirlpool tub & a loft for whatever you have in mind. **Call Vince Duchene**



Vince Duchene • Ext 225 • 457-1011



\$159,900

Located on a year round township road, this three bedroom bungalow sits on five acres of land, and boasts a screened in sunroom and great privacy. Please call Lenor at 286-2911 for further information. **Call Lenor Fulton**



Lenor Fulton • Ext 23 • 286-2911



\$1,350,000

LAKE KASHAGWIGAMOG: 5000 PLUS sq ft, 6B/4BA, Post & Beam architectural masterpiece dominates this luscious 65 acre groomed forest with its 5 km of cut trails and offers 180 filtered panoramic views of lake and forest. Deck and dock at lake. Geothermal heating system & 2 dble GARS. **Call Marilyn Hawley**



Marilyn Hawley • Ext 237 • 457-1011



\$199,500

Gull River-Minden Wow! Make sure to check out this spacious waterfront bungalow with western exposure and large back yard. Boating and fishing pleasure await. Large living and dining area with propane fireplace, large renovated bathroom, detached garage. Town services. Price drastically reduced to \$199,500. A must see! **Call Bill Kulas**



Bill Kulas • Ext 44 • 286-2911



\$239,000

SELLERS RE-LOCATING - MOTIVATED TO SELL! Spacious 3 + 1 bdrm home with attached garage, conveniently located between Haliburton & Minden on 1.43 acres w/large pond. Features include 14 pc. & 1-1/2 pc. bath, large country kitchen w/island and pantry, country livingroom w/brick fireplace/hearth, fireplace, large w/lake wall-in closet. Fabulous custom wood flooring throughout. Large family room w/woodstove. Newer woodstove, furnace and oil tank. LV system. A MUST SEE! **Call Debra Lambe**

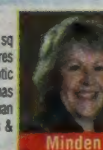


Debra Lambe • 457-1011



\$179,900

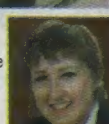
Awesome Shop! Lg shop built in '95 over 1000 sq ft set on 2.15 ac with two entrances. Features include maintenance free exterior, full modern septic drilled well & aluminum facial & soffit. Building has 14 ft ceilings, 12 ft industrial door plus two main doors. Well insulated with thermopane windows & security system. **Call Denise Leblanc**



Denise Leblanc • Ext 33 • 286-2911



Building your dream: Live on Gull River, boat to town or Gull Lake from this new 3 bedroom walk-out basement home. Decide your finishing touches! Call for details **Call Lynda Litwin**



Lynda Litwin • Ext 35 • 286-2911



Newly constructed home: Home on 6.79 ac. lot. Very private and well treed. Features large master ensuite with jacuzzi tub, full unfinished basement. Finish to taste, great location. **Call Erin Nicholls**



Erin Nicholls • Ext 238 • 457-1011



\$139,000

Burnt River - Ritchie Falls Road 30 Acres w/1300+-feet of riverfront. Nicely treed with many building spots. 2 sep. deeded 15 acre parcels. **Call Karen Nimigon**



Karen Nimigon • Ext 224 • 457-1011



\$699,000

Horseshoe Lake - Confederation Post & Beam Log Cottage or Home, Lrg Livingroom with Stone Fireplace Accented with Pine Floors, Warm Country Kitchen with Elmira Wood Cookstove, 4 Bedrooms, Full finished Basement, Main Floor Master Bdrm & Laundry! Sand Frontage on a 2 Lake Chain. Minutes to Minden. **Call Marj Hunter & John Parish**



Marj Hunter & John Parish • Ext 226 • 457-1011



South Lake - \$389,000

"Quality" brand home located on 316ft of prime child friendly frontage on South Lake. Sunken livingroom with hardwood floors and propane fireplace. Open concept kitchen and dining area with walkout to private deck. Walkout basement ready to be finished. Large garage for the toys. Priced to sell. **Call Tom & Gail Tempest**



Tom & Gail Tempest • Ext 41 • 286-2911



\$499,900

Income Potential: Highland/York St. commercial bldg. w/over 6000 sq. ft. of space. Inc. 2 commercial units, 4 apts. & large storage area. All 6 units are presently rented, & hydro is separately metered. York Street side takes in a panoramic view over Head Lake, w/parkland. **Call Elizabeth Thompson**



Elizabeth Thompson • Ext 248 • 457-1011



\$115,000

Hunter Creek Estates: Well maintained 1300 sq. ft. 3 bdrm. home, w/o dining room to screened porch - living room, fireplace, hardwood floors, main floor laundry, 16'x24' garage. **Call Ted Vasey**



Ted Vasey • Ext 223 • 457-1011



\$179,000

This recently renovated charmer sits on a beautiful lot with fruit trees in the always popular McKayville. Features include: hardwood floors, new carpeting, new bathroom, new kitchen, 3 bedrooms, full basement and a double car garage! **Call Melanie & Doug**



Melanie Vigrass & Doug Brown • Ext 40 • 286-2911



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